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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND
OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Rights and Values programme
- Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading
(Strasbourg, 15 to 18 April 2019)

I. INTRODUCTION

Claude MORAES (S&D, UK), on behalf of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, presented an amendment (amendment 115) to the report by Bodil VALERO (Greens/EFA, SE), on the above mentioned proposal.

In addition, the EFDD political group tabled one amendment (amendment number 116).

II. VOTE

When it voted on 17 April 2019, the plenary adopted amendment 115 (472 votes in favour, 129 against and 41 abstentions) to the proposal. No other amendment was adopted.

The Commission's proposal as thus amended constitutes the Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto¹.

The parts of the text in the Annex that are not highlighted in grey correspond in substance, with minor inconsistencies, to the common understanding reached on 6 March 2019 at the last trilogue meeting under the 8th parliamentary term (2014-2019). Such inconsistencies are to be corrected before Council adopts its position, once an agreement has been reached on the whole text.

The text highlighted in grey in the Annex has not been agreed in the framework of interinstitutional negotiations at this stage.

¹ The version of the Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in ***bold and italics***. The symbol "■" indicates deleted text.

Rights and values programme *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 17 April 2019 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Rights and Values programme (COM(2018)0383 – C8-0234/2018 – 2018/0207(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0383),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 16(2), 19(2), 21(2), 24, 167 and 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0234/2018),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 18 October 2018¹,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 10 October 2018²,
 - having regard to the letter from its President to the committee chairs of 25 January 2019 outlining the Parliament's approach to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2020 sectorial programmes,
 - having regard to the letter from the Council to the President of the European Parliament of 1 April 2019 confirming the common understanding reached between the co-legislators during negotiations,
 - having regard to Rules 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Culture and Education, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (A8-0468/2018),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out³;

¹ OJ C 62, 15.2.2019, p. 178.

² OJ C 461, 21.12.2018, p. 196.

³ This position replaces the amendments adopted on 17 January 2019 (Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0040).

2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 17 April 2019 with a view to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2019/... of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the *Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values* programme

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 16(2), Article 19(2), Article 21(2), Article 24, Article 167, and Article 168 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions²,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure³,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty *on* European Union, ‘the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights, including the rights of the persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society where pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail’. Article 3 further specifies that the ‘Union’s aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its people’ and, among others, ‘it shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe’s cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced’. *These* values are further reaffirmed and articulated in the rights, freedoms and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (*‘the Charter’*).

¹ OJ C 62, 15.2.2019, p. 178.

² OJ C 461, 21.12.2018, p. 196.

³ Position of the European Parliament of 17 April 2019. The text highlighted in grey has not been agreed in the framework of interinstitutional negotiations.

- (2) Those rights and values must continue to be **actively cultivated, protected**, promoted, enforced and shared among the citizens and peoples and be at the heart of the EU project, **given that deterioration in the protection of those rights and values in any Member State can have detrimental effects on the Union as a whole**. Therefore, a new Justice, Rights and Values Fund, comprising the **Citizens, Equality**, Rights and Values and the Justice programmes shall be created in the EU budget. At a time where European societies are confronted with extremism, radicalism and divisions **and a shrinking space for independent civil society**, it is more important than ever to promote, strengthen and defend justice, rights and EU values: human rights, respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law. This will have profound and direct implications for political, social, cultural and economic life in the EU. As part of the new Fund, the Justice Programme will continue to support the further development of Union area of justice **based on the rule of law, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, on mutual recognition and mutual trust, access to justice** and cross-border cooperation. The **Citizens, Equality**, Rights and Values Programme will bring together the 2014-2020 Programme Rights, Equality and Citizenship established by Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ and the Europe for Citizens programme established by Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014², (hereafter 'the predecessor Programmes').
- (3) The Justice, Rights and Values Fund and its two underlying funding programmes will focus **on persons** and entities, which contribute to make our common values, rights, **and equality** and rich diversity alive and vibrant. The ultimate objective is to nurture and sustain **a** rights-based, equal, **open, pluralist**, inclusive and democratic society. That includes a vibrant **and empowered** civil society, encouraging people's democratic, civic and social participation and **cultivating** the rich diversity of European society, based on our common **values**, history and memory. Article 11 of the Treaty of the European Union **requires** that the institutions **of the Union maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with civil society and**, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action.

¹ **Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014 to 2020 (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 62).**

² Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 establishing the 'Europe for Citizens' programme for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 115, 17.4.2014, p. 3)

- (3a) *A regular, open and transparent dialogue with the beneficiaries of the Programme and other relevant stakeholders should be established by setting up a Civil Dialogue Group. The Civil Dialogue Group should be an open and informal forum for discussion and should contribute to the exchange of experiences and good practices and to the discussion of policy developments within the fields and objectives covered by the Programme and related fields. The Civil Dialogue Group should not have any responsibility regarding programme management.*
- (4) The Programme should allow developing synergies to tackle the challenges that are common to the promotion and protection of **Union** values and to reach a critical dimension to have concrete results in the field. That should be achieved by building on *and further developing* the positive experience of the predecessor Programmes. This will enable to fully exploit the potential of synergies, to more effectively support the policy areas covered and to increase their potential to reach *persons and civil society, aiming at a balanced geographical distribution*. To be effective, the Programme should take into account the specific nature of the different policies, their different target groups and their particular needs through tailor-made *and targeted* approaches.
- (4a) *Full respect and promotion of the rule of law and democracy is fundamental to building citizens' trust in the Union and in ensuring mutual trust among Member States. By promoting rights and values, the Programme will contribute to the construction and of a more democratic Union, respect for the rule of law and democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society.*
- (5) In order to bring the European Union closer to its citizens *and to foster democratic participation* a variety of actions and coordinated efforts, are necessary. *European Citizenship and European identity should be developed and advanced by encouraging citizens' understanding of the policymaking process and by promoting civic engagement in the actions of the Union. Also, bringing together citizens in town-twinning projects or networks of towns and supporting civil society organisations at the local, regional, national and transnational level* in the areas covered by the programme will contribute to increase citizens' engagement in society and ultimately their *active* involvement in the democratic life of the Union. At the same time supporting activities promoting mutual understanding, *intercultural dialogue, cultural, and linguistic* diversity, **social inclusion**

and respect for others, *foster* a sense of belonging *to the Union and a common citizenship under* a European identity, based on a shared understanding of *our common* European values, culture, history and heritage. The promotion of a greater sense of belonging to the Union and of Union values is particularly important amongst citizens of the EU outermost regions due to their remoteness and distance from continental Europe.

- (6) Remembrance activities and critical reflection on Europe's historical memory are necessary to make citizens, *in particular young persons*, aware of *their* common history *and values*, as the foundation for a common future. **Remembrance activities should reflect on the causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history – in particular Nazism, which led to the Holocaust; Fascism, Stalinism and totalitarian communist regimes – and commemorate the victims of their crimes. They should as well encompass activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history.** The relevance of historical, *social*, cultural and intercultural aspects, should also be taken into account *in order to create* a European identity *based on common values and a* sense of belonging together.
- (7) Citizens should also be more aware of their rights deriving from citizenship of the Union and should feel at ease about living, travelling, studying, working and volunteering in another Member State, and should feel able to enjoy and exercise all their citizenship rights, place their trust in equal access, full enforceability and protection of their rights without any discrimination, no matter where in the Union they happen to be. Civil society needs to be supported for the promotion, safeguarding and raising awareness of **Union** values under Article 2 TEU and in contributing to the effective enjoyment of rights under Union law.
- (8) **Gender** equality **is** a fundamental value and an objective of the European Union. *Yet overall progress on gender equality has been stagnating.* Discrimination against and unequal treatment of women *and girls as well as various forms of violence against women and girls* violates their fundamental rights and prevents their full political, social and economic participation in society. In addition, the existence of *political*, structural and cultural barriers hinders the achievement of real gender equality. *The promotion of* gender equality *and gender mainstreaming*, in all activities of the Union is therefore a core *task* for the Union and a driver for economic growth and *social development*, and should be supported by the programme. *Actively tackling stereotypes and addressing silent and*

intersectional discrimination are of particular importance. Equal access to work, equal participation in labour market and the elimination of barriers to career progression in all sectors, for example the judiciary, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related sectors, are pillars of gender equality. Focus should also be put on work-life balance and on equal sharing of unpaid household and care work for children, the elderly and other dependents, between men and women which remain pillars to the equal economic independence and participation and are intrinsically related to the achievement of equality between women and men.

- (9) Gender-based violence and violence against **groups at risk** (children, young **persons** and other groups at risks such as **LGBTQI** and persons with disabilities) constitutes a serious violation of fundamental rights and persists throughout the Union, in all social and economic contexts, *with* serious repercussions on victims' physical, **mental** and psychological health and on society as a whole. *Women are the most significantly affected persons by gender-based violence and harassment in both the domestic and public sphere; therefore combating this violence is a key action in promoting gender equality. The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) defines violence against women as 'all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life'. Combating gender-based violence requires a multi-dimensional approach, including addressing its legal, economic, educational, and health aspects. There is also a need to actively tackle gender stereotypes from an early age, as well as all forms of hate speech and online violence. In this context it remains essential to support women's rights organisations and other actors working in this field.* Children, young **persons** and other groups at risks such as **LGBTQI** and persons with disabilities also present an increased risk of being subject to violence, **particularly in family and intimate** relationships. Action should be taken to promote the rights of the **persons at risk - in particular, the rights of children (including children orphans, children orphaned of domestic crimes and other particularly vulnerable groups of children)** – and to contribute to **their** protection and ensure their rights to development and dignity. Combating all forms of violence, *in particular gender-based violence*, promoting its prevention and protecting and supporting victims are priorities of the Union which help fulfil individuals'

fundamental rights and contribute to **gender** equality ■ . Those priorities should be supported by the Programme.

- (10) Strong political will and coordinated action based on the methods and results of the previous Daphne Programmes, the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme and the Justice Programme are necessary in order to prevent and combat all forms of violence and to protect victims. In particular, since its launch in 1997, the Daphne funding to support victims of violence and combat the violence against women, children and young **persons** has been a genuine success, both in terms of its popularity with stakeholders (public authorities, academic institutions and non-governmental organisations) and in terms of the effectiveness of the funded projects. It has funded projects to raise awareness, to provide support services to victims, to support the activities of **civil society** organisations ■ working on the ground. It has addressed all forms of violence, such as for instance domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking in human beings, **stalking and traditional harmful practices such as female genital mutilation**, as well as new emerging forms of violence such as cyber-bullying **and online harassment**.

It is therefore important to continue all these actions **with an independent budget allocation for Daphne** and that those results and lessons learned are taken into due consideration in the implementation of the Programme.

- (11) Non-discrimination is a fundamental principle of the Union. Article 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides for action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Non-discrimination is also enshrined in Article 21 of the Charter. The specific features of the diverse forms of discrimination, **including direct, indirect and structural discrimination**, should be taken into account and appropriate action should be developed in parallel to prevent and combat discrimination on one or more grounds. The Programme should support actions to prevent and combat **all forms of** discrimination, racism, xenophobia, **afrophobia**, anti-semitism, **anti-gypsism**, anti-muslim hatred, and other forms of intolerance, **including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and other forms of intolerance based on gender identity, both on-line and off-line, against persons belonging to minorities, taking into account the multiple discrimination**. In that context, particular attention should also be devoted to preventing and combating all forms of violence, hatred, segregation and stigmatisation, as well as combating bullying, harassment

and intolerant treatment. The Programme should be implemented in a mutually reinforcing manner with other Union activities that have the same objectives, in particular with those referred to in the Commission Communication of 5 April 2011 entitled ‘An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020¹⁰ and in the Council Recommendation of 09 December 2013 on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States¹.

- (12) **Social** and environmental barriers as well as lack of accessibility hinder the full and effective participation of *persons* with disabilities in society, on an equal basis with others. **Persons** with disabilities **face** barriers to, among other things, access the labour market, benefit from an inclusive and quality education, avoid poverty and social exclusion, enjoy access to cultural initiatives and media, or use their political rights. As a party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the UNCRPD), the Union and all its Member States have committed to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities. The provisions of the UNCRPD have become an integral part of the Union legal order.
- (13) The right to respect for his or her private and family life, home and communications (right to privacy) is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 7 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The protection of personal data is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Article 16 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Compliance with the rules for the protection of personal data is subject to the control by independent supervisory authorities. The *Union’s* legal framework, in particular Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council² and Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council³ lay down provisions to ensure that the right to protection of personal data is effectively protected. These legal instruments entrust the national data protection supervisory authorities with the task of promoting public awareness and understanding of the risks, rules, safeguards and rights in relation to the processing of personal data. The Union should be able to conduct awareness-raising activities, *including through support for civil society organisations advocating for the protection of personal data in line with Union standards, and* carry

¹ OJ C 378, 24.12.2013, p. 1.

² OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1-88.

³ OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 89-131.

out studies and other relevant activities given the importance of the right to the protection of personal data in times of rapid technological developments.

- (14) Article 24 TFEU obliges the European Parliament and the Council to adopt provisions for the procedures and conditions required for a citizen's initiative within the meaning of Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union. This has been done by adopting Regulation [(EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹]. The Programme should support the financing of technical and organisational support to implement Regulation [(EU) No 211/2011], thereby underpinning the exercise by citizens of the right to launch and support European citizens' initiatives.
- (15) Pursuant to Articles 8 and 10 TFEU, the Programme in all its activities should support gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination objectives. *The interim and the final evaluation of the programme should evaluate gender impacts to assess the extent to which the Programme is contributing to gender equality and to assess that the Programme is not having unintended negative impacts on gender equality. In this context and while taking into account the different nature and size of the activities of the different strands of the programme, it will be important that individual data collected by the project promoters are broken down by sex whenever possible. It is also important to provide information to applicants on how to take gender equality into account, including on the use of gender mainstreaming tools such as gender budgeting and gender impact assessments where necessary. Gender balance should be considered when consulting experts and stakeholders.*
- (16) Article 3(3) TEU requires the Union to promote the protection of the rights of the child, in line with Article 24 of the Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- (17) In accordance with Union acts on equal treatment, Member States set up independent bodies for the promotion of equal treatment, commonly known as "equality bodies", in order to combat discrimination based on race and ethnic origin as well as gender. However, many Member States have gone beyond these requirements and ensured that equality bodies can also deal with discrimination based on ■ other grounds such as *language, age,*

¹ Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens' initiative (OJ L 65, 11.3.2011, p. 1).

sex characteristics, gender identity and gender diversity, sexual orientation, religion and belief, disability ■ . Equality bodies play a key role in promoting equality and ensuring effective application of equal treatment legislation by providing in particular an independent assistance to victims of discrimination, conducting independent surveys concerning discrimination, publishing independent reports and making recommendations on any issue relating to discrimination in their country. It is essential that the work of equality bodies is coordinated at Union level in this respect. EQUINET was created in 2007. Its members are the national bodies for the promotion of equal treatment as established by Council Directives 2000/43/EC¹ and 2004/113/EC², and by Directives 2006/54/EC³ and 2010/41/EU⁴ of the European Parliament and of the Council. ***On 22 June 2018 the Commission adopted its recommendation on standards for equality bodies, covering the mandate, independence, effectiveness and coordination and cooperation of equality bodies.*** EQUINET is in an exceptional situation, being the only entity which ensures coordination of activities between equality bodies. This coordination activity by EQUINET is key for the good implementation of Union anti-discrimination law in Member States and should be supported by the Programme.

(17a) In order to increase user-friendly accessibility and provide impartial guidance and practical information in relation to all aspects of the Programme, contact points may be set up in Member States to provide assistance to both beneficiaries and applicants. Programme contact points should be able to carry out their functions independently, without interference in their decision making from public authorities. Member States should be able to choose the most appropriate management of programme contact points, including, among others, through public authorities, civil society organisations

¹ Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22).

² Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services (OJ L 373, 21.12.2004, p. 37).

³ Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (OJ L 204, 26.7.2006, p. 23).

⁴ Directive 2010/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity and repealing Council Directive 86/613/EEC (OJ L 180, 15.7.2010, p. 1).

or consortia thereof. Programme contact points are not to have any responsibility regarding programme management.

- (18) Independent human rights bodies, civil society organisations play an essential role in promoting, safeguarding and raising awareness of the Union's common values under Article 2 TEU, and in contributing to the effective enjoyment of rights under Union law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. As reflected in the European Parliament Resolution of 19 April 2018, ***an increase in funding and*** adequate financial support ***are*** key to the development of a conducive and sustainable environment for civil society organisations to strengthen their role and perform their functions independently and effectively. Complementing efforts at national level, EU funding should therefore contribute to support, empower and build the capacity of independent civil society organisations active in the promotion of ***values and*** rights, whose activities help the strategic enforcement of rights under EU law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, including through advocacy ***such as strategic litigation, campaigning, communication and other*** watchdog activities, as well as to promote, safeguard and raise awareness of the Union's values at ***local, regional, national and transnational*** level. ***The programme should be implemented in a user friendly way, for example user-friendly application and reporting procedure. Particular attention should be paid to its accessibility to civil society organisations at transnational, national, regional and local level, including local grass root civil society organisations as well as to the capacity of beneficiaries. This should include consideration of the use of financial support to third parties, where appropriate.***
- (19) The Commission should ensure overall consistency, complementarity and synergies with the work of Union bodies, offices and agencies, in particular the European Institute for Gender Equality and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, and should take stock of the work of other national and international actors in the areas covered by the Programme.
- (20) The Programme should be open, subject to certain conditions, to the participation of European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA) and EFTA members which are not members of the EEA and other European countries. Accessing countries, candidate countries and potential candidate

countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy should also be able to participate in the Programme.

- (21) In order to ensure efficient allocation of funds from the general budget of the Union, it is necessary to ensure the European added value of all actions carried out, their complementarity to Member States' actions, while consistency, complementarity and synergies **■ should** be sought with funding programmes supporting policy areas with close links to each other, in particular within the Justice, Rights and Values Fund — and thus with the Justice Programme — as well as with Creative Europe programme, and Erasmus+ to realise the potential of cultural crossovers in the fields of culture, media, arts, education and creativity. It is necessary to create synergies with other European funding programmes, in particular in the fields of employment **and fight against social exclusion, especially the European Social Fund Plus** internal market, enterprise, youth, health, citizenship, justice, migration, security, research, innovation, technology, industry, cohesion, tourism, external relations, trade and **sustainable** development.
- (22) This Regulation lays down a financial envelope for the **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values** programme which is to constitute the prime reference amount, within the meaning of [reference to be updated as appropriate according to the new inter-institutional agreement: point 17 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management¹], for the European Parliament and the Council during the annual budgetary procedure.
- (23) Regulation (EU, Euratom) No [the new FR] (the 'Financial Regulation') applies to this Programme. It lays down rules on the implementation of the Union budget, including the rules on grants, prizes, procurement, indirect implementation, financial assistance, financial instruments and budgetary guarantees.
- (24) The types of financing and the methods of implementation under this Regulation should be chosen on the basis of their ability to achieve the specific objectives of the actions and to deliver results, taking into account, in particular, the costs of controls, the administrative

¹ [Reference to be updated: OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1. The agreement is available at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.373.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2013:373:TOC].

burden, *the capacity of relevant stakeholders and targeted beneficiaries*, and the expected risk of non-compliance. This should include consideration of the use of lump sums, flat rates and unit costs, as well as financing not linked to costs as referred to in Article 125(1) of the Financial Regulation. ■

(24a) *In accordance with the Financial Regulation, Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2988/95² Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96³ and Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939⁴ the financial interests of the Union are to be protected through proportionate measures, including the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities and fraud, the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used and, where appropriate, the imposition of administrative sanctions. In particular, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 and Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may carry out administrative investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) may investigate and prosecute fraud and other criminal offences affecting the financial interests of the Union as provided for in Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵. In accordance with the Financial Regulation, any person or entity receiving Union funds is to fully cooperate in the protection of the Union's financial interests, to grant the*

¹ *Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L248, 18.9.2013, p. 1).*

² *Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.95, p. 1).*

³ *Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L292.15.11.96, p. 2).*

⁴ *Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') (OJ L283, 31.10.2017, p. 1).*

⁵ *Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).*

necessary rights and access to the Commission, OLAF, the EPPO and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and to ensure that any third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds grant equivalent rights.

(25) *In relation to the implementation of the specific objectives of promoting gender equality, rights, citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union at local, regional, national and transnational level and combating violence*, third countries which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA) may participate in Union programmes in the framework of the cooperation established under the EEA agreement, which provides for the implementation of the programmes by a decision under that agreement. Third countries may also participate on the basis of other legal instruments. A specific provision should be introduced in this Regulation to grant the necessary rights for and access to the authorizing officer responsible, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as well as the European Court of Auditors to comprehensively exert their respective competences.

(26) Horizontal financial rules adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on the basis of Article 322 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union apply to this Regulation. These rules are laid down in the Financial Regulation and determine in particular the procedure for establishing and implementing the budget through grants, procurement, prizes, indirect implementation, and provide for checks on the responsibility of financial actors. Rules adopted on the basis of Article 322 TFEU also concern the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States, as the respect for the rule of law is an essential precondition for sound financial management and effective EU funding.

(26a) *The proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States aims to equip the Union to better protect its budget when weaknesses in the rule of law impair or threaten to impair sound financial management or the financial interests of the Union. It should complement the Rights and Values programme whose role is different, namely to fund policies in line with fundamental rights and European values that have at its core people's lives and participation.*

- (27) Pursuant to [reference to be updated as appropriate according to a new decision on OCTs: Article 94 of Council Decision 2013/755/EU¹], persons and entities established in overseas countries and territories (OCTs) are eligible for funding subject to the rules and objectives of the Programme and possible arrangements applicable to the Member State to which the relevant overseas country or territory is linked. ***The constraints arising from the remoteness of OCTs must be taken into account when implementing the Programme, and their effective participation therein must be monitored and regularly evaluated.***
- (28) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate action and to the achievement of an overall target of 25 % of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives ***over the MFF 2021-2027 period, and an annual target of 30 % as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.*** Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of its mid-term evaluation.
- (29) Pursuant to paragraph 22 and 23 of the Inter-institutional agreement for Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016, there is a need to evaluate this Programme on the basis of information collected through specific monitoring requirements, while avoiding overregulation and administrative burdens, in particular on Member States. These requirements, where appropriate, can include measurable indicators, as a basis for evaluating the effects of the Programme on the ground.
- (30) In order to **■ supplement** this Regulation ***with a view to carrying out the Programme and ensuring effective assessment of its progress towards the achievement of its objectives,*** the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of ***work programmes pursuant to Article 13 and*** indicators as indicated in ***Articles 14 and 16 and Annex II.*** It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016. In particular, to

¹ Council Decision 2013/755/EU of 25 November 2013 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union (Overseas Association Decision) (OJ L 344, 19.12.2013, p. 1).

ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter

This Regulation establishes the ***Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values*** programme ('Programme').

It lays down the objectives of the Programme, the budget for the period 2021 – 2027, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.

Article 2

Programme objectives

1. The general objective of the Programme is to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the Treaties, ***the Charter and in the applicable international human rights conventions, in particular*** by supporting civil society organisations ***and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national and transnational level, and by encouraging civic and democratic participation***, in order to sustain ***and further develop open, rights-based***, democratic, ***equal*** and inclusive societies ***based on the rule of law***.
2. Within the general objective set out in paragraph 1, the programme has the following specific objectives which correspond to strands:
 - (-a) ***to protect and promote Union values (Union values strand)***
 - (a) to promote ***rights, non-discrimination, equality***, ***including gender equality, and advance gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming***; (Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand),
 - (b) to promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union ***and exchanges between citizens of different Member States and to raise awareness of the common European history*** (Citizens' engagement and participation strand),

- (c) to fight *violence, including gender-based* violence (Daphne strand).

Article 2a

Union values strand

Within the general objective set out in Article 2(1) and within the specific objective set out in point (-a) of Article 2(2), the Programme shall focus on protecting, promoting and raising awareness on rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations active at local, regional and transnational level in promoting and cultivating these rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.

Article 3

Equality, Rights and Gender *Equality strand*

Within the general objective set out in Article 2(1) and within the specific objective set out in point (a) of Article 2(2), the Programme shall focus on:

- (a) *promoting equality and* preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation **■** *and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter;*
- (b) **■** *supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies:*
- (i) *to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming*
 - (ii) *to promote non-discrimination and its mainstreaming;*
 - (iii) *to combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and intolerance on the basis of gender identity, both online and offline;*
 - (iv) *to protect and promote the rights of the child;*

- (v) *to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities;*
- (ba) *protecting and promoting Union citizenship rights and the right to the protection of personal data.*

Article 4

Citizens engagement and participation strand

Within *the general objective set out in Article 2(1) and within* the specific objective set out in point (b) of Article 2(2), the Programme shall focus on:

- (a) **■** *supporting projects aimed at commemorating defining events in modern European history, including the causes and consequences of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, and at raising awareness among European citizens, of their common history, culture, cultural heritage and values, thereby enhancing their understanding of the Union, its ■ origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance;*
- (b) promoting ■ citizens and representative associations' ■ *participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly ■ exchanging* their views in all areas *on* Union action;
- (ba) *promoting exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through town-twinning and networks of towns, so as to afford them practical experience of the wealth and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that these constitute the foundation for a common future.*

Article 5

Daphne strand

Within *the general objective set out in Article 2(1) and within* the specific objective set out in point (c) of Article 2(2), the Programme shall focus on:

- (-a) *preventing and combating at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence, also by promoting the standards laid down*

in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention); and

- (a) preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people, as well as violence against other groups at risk, *such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities*;
- (b) supporting and protecting *all direct and indirect* victims of such violence, *such as domestic violence exerted within the family or violence in intimate relationships, including children orphaned by domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.*

Article 6

Budget

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021 – 2027 shall be EUR **1 627 000 000 in 2018 prices [EUR 1 834 000 000 in current prices]**.
2. Within the amount referred to in paragraph 1 the following indicative amount shall be allocated to the following objective:

(-a) **EUR 754 062 000 in 2018 prices [EUR 850 000 000 in current prices] (i.e. 46.34 % of the total financial envelope) for the specific objectives referred to in point (-a) of Article 2(2);**

(a) **EUR 429 372 000 in 2018 prices [EUR 484 000 000] (i.e. 26.39 % of the total financial envelope) for the specific objectives referred to in points (a) and (c) of Article 2(2);**

(b) **EUR 443 566 000 in 2018 prices [EUR 500 000 000] (i.e. 27.26 % of the total financial envelope) for the specific objectives referred to in point (b) of Article 2(2).**

The Commission shall allocate at least 50 % of the amounts referred to in points (-a) and (a) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph to support activities carried out by civil society organisations, of which at least 65 % shall be allocated to local and regional civil society organisations.

The Commission shall not depart from the allocated percentages of the financial envelope, as set out in Annex -I by more than five percentage points. Should it prove necessary to exceed that limit, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 16 to amend Annex -I by modifying by between five and ten percentage points the allocated percentages of Programme funds.

3. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities including corporate information technology systems, studies, meetings of experts, communications on priorities and areas related to the general objectives of the programme.
4. Without prejudice to the Financial Regulation, expenditure for actions resulting from projects included in the first work programme may be eligible as from 1 January 2021.
5. Resources allocated to Member States under shared management may, at their **request or at the Commission's** request, be transferred to the Programme. The Commission shall implement those resources directly in accordance with Article 62(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation . Where possible, those resources shall be used for the benefit of the Member State .

Article 7

Third countries associated to the Programme

1. The Programme shall be open to the following countries provided that the conditions are met:
 - (a) European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA), in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA agreement;
 - (b) acceding countries, candidate and potential candidate, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements and Association Council decisions, or similar agreements, and in accordance with the specific conditions laid down in agreements between the Union and those countries;

- (c) countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements and association council decisions, or similar agreements, and in accordance with the specific conditions laid down in agreements between the Union and those countries.
- (d) Other third countries, in accordance with the conditions laid down in a specific agreement covering the participation of the third country to any Union programme, provided that the agreement:

- ensures a fair balance as regards the contributions and benefits of the third country participating in the Union programmes;
- lays down the conditions of participation in the programmes, including the calculation of financial contributions to individual programmes and their administrative costs. These contributions shall constitute assigned revenues in accordance with Article [21(5)] of [the new Financial Regulation];
- does not confer to the third country a decisional power on the programme;
- guarantees the rights of the Union to ensure sound financial management and to protect its financial interests.

Article 8

Implementation and forms of EU funding

1. The Programme shall be implemented in direct management in accordance with the Financial Regulation or in indirect management with bodies referred to in *point (c) of Article 62(1)* of the Financial Regulation.
2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation.
3. [Contributions to a mutual insurance mechanism may cover the risk associated with the recovery of funds due by recipients and shall be considered a sufficient guarantee under the Financial Regulation. The provisions laid down in [Article X of] Regulation XXX [successor of the Regulation on the Guarantee Fund] shall apply].

Article 9

Type of actions

Actions contributing to the achievement of a specific objective specified in Article 2 may receive funding under this Regulation. In particular, activities listed in Annex I shall be eligible for funding.

Article 9a

Civil Dialogue Group

The Commission shall set up a ‘Civil Dialogue Group’ aimed at ensuring a regular, open and transparent dialogue with the beneficiaries of the Programme and other relevant stakeholders in order to exchange experiences and good practices and to discuss policy developments within the fields and objectives covered by the Programme and related fields.

CHAPTER II

GRANTS

Article 10

Grants

1. Grants under the Programme shall be awarded and managed in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation.
2. The evaluation committee may be composed of external experts.

Article 11

Cumulative [, complementary] and combined funding

1. An action that has received a contribution under the Programme may also receive a contribution from any other Union programme, including Funds under shared management, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. [The cumulative financing shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and the support from different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro-rata basis].
2. Where the Programme and the Funds under shared management referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EU)[XX] [CPR] provide jointly financial support to a single action, that action

shall be implemented in accordance with the rules set out in this Regulation, including rules on recovery of amounts unduly paid.

3. Actions eligible under the Programme and complying with the conditions referred to in the second subparagraph may be identified with the aim to be funded by the Funds under shared management. In this case the co-financing rates and the eligibility rules provided for in this Regulation shall apply.

The actions referred to in the first subparagraph shall comply with the following cumulative conditions:

- a) they have been assessed in a call for proposals under the Programme;
- b) they comply with the minimum quality requirements of that call for proposals;
- c) they may not be financed under that call for proposals due to budgetary constraints.

The actions shall be implemented by the managing authority referred to in Article [65] of Regulation (EU)[XX] [CPR] in accordance with the rules set out in that Regulation and fund specific regulations, including rules on financial corrections."

Article 12

Eligible entities

1. The eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall apply in addition to the criteria set out in [Article 197] of the Financial Regulation.
2. The following entities are eligible:
 - (a) legal entities established in any of the following countries:
 - a Member State or an overseas country or territory linked to it;
 - a third country associated to the Programme, *except for the specific objective referred to in point (-a) of Article 2(2)*;
 - (b) any legal entity created under Union law or any international organisation;

3. An operating grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), *under point (a) of Article 6(2)*, to cover expenditure associated *with* its permanent work programme.

CHAPTER III

PROGRAMMING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND CONTROL

Article 13

Work programme and multiannual priorities

1. The Programme shall be *carried out* by work programmes referred to in Article 110 of Financial Regulation.
2. The Commission *is empowered to adopt delegated acts* in accordance with Article 16 to *supplement this Regulation by establishing the appropriate work programme.*

Article 14

Monitoring and reporting

1. Indicators to report on progress of the Programme towards the achievement of the specific objectives set out in Article 2 are set out in Annex II.
2. To ensure effective assessment of progress of the Programme towards the achievement of its objectives, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 16, to develop the provisions for a monitoring and evaluation framework, including through amendments to Annex II to review and complement the indicators where necessary.
3. The performance reporting system shall ensure that data for monitoring programme implementation and results are collected efficiently, effectively, and in a timely manner. To that end, proportionate reporting requirements shall be imposed on recipients of Union funds and Member States.

Article 15

Evaluation

1. Evaluations shall be carried out in a timely manner to feed into the decision-making process.
2. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the start of the programme implementation. The mid-term evaluation shall take into account the results of the evaluations of the long-term impact of the predecessor programmes (Rights Equality and Citizenship and Europe for Citizens).
3. At the end of the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the end of the period specified in Article 1, a final evaluation of the Programme shall be carried out by the Commission.
4. The Commission shall communicate the conclusions of the evaluations accompanied by its observations, to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

Article 16

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.
2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in **Articles 13 and 14** shall be conferred on the Commission until 31 December 2027.
3. The delegation of power referred to in **Articles 13 and 14** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016.
5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council. ***Based on the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making, citizens and other stakeholders may express their opinion on the draft text of a delegated act during a four-week period. The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions shall be consulted on the draft text, based on the experience of NGOs and local and regional authorities with respect to the implementation of the Programme.***
6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to ***Articles 13 or 14*** shall enter into force if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or by the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Article 17

Protection of the financial interests of the Union

Where a third country participates in the programme by a decision under an international agreement or by virtue of any other legal instrument, the third country shall grant the necessary rights and access required for the authorizing officer responsible, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Court of Auditors to comprehensively exert their respective competences. In the case of OLAF, such rights shall include the right to carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

CHAPTER IV

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 18

Information, communication and publicity

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding (in particular when promoting the actions and their results) by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.
2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 2.

Article 18a

Programme Contact Points

Every member state may establish Programme Contact Points. They shall be in charge of providing impartial guidance, practical information and assistance to applicants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the programme with respect to all the aspects of the programme, including in relation to the application procedure, dissemination of user-friendly information and programme results, inquiries for partners, training and other formalities. Programme Contact Points shall carry out their functions independently.

Article 20

Repeal

Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 are repealed with effect from 1 January 2021.

Article 21

Transitional provisions

1. This Regulation shall not affect the continuation or modification of the actions concerned, until their closure, under Regulations (EU) No 1381/2013 and (EU) No 390/2014, which shall continue to apply to the actions concerned until their closure.
2. The financial envelope for the Programme may also cover technical and administrative assistance expenses necessary to ensure the transition between the Programme and the measures adopted under its predecessor programmes established by Regulations (EU) No 1381/2013 and (EU) No 390/2014.
3. If necessary, appropriations may be entered in the budget beyond 2027 to cover the expenses provided for in Article 6(3), to enable the management of actions not completed by 31 December 2027.

Article 22

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at ...,

For the European Parliament

For the Council

The President

The President

ANNEX -I

The available Programme funds referred to in Article 6(1) shall be allocated as follows:

(a) Within the amount referred to in point (a) of Article 6(2):

- *at least 15 % to activities implementing the specific objective under point (b) (i) of Article 3;*
- *at least 40 % to activities implementing the specific objectives under point (-a) of Article 5; and*
- *at least 45 % to activities implementing the specific objectives under points (a), (b) (ii) to (v) and (c) of Article 3 and points (a) and (b) of Article 5;*

(b) Within the amount referred to in point (b) of Article 6(2):

- *15 % to remembrance activities;*
- *65 % to democratic participation;*
- *10 % to promotional activities; and*
- *10 % to administration.*

ANNEX I

Activities supported by the Programme

The *general and* specific objectives of the Programme set out in Article 2 will be pursued in particular by supporting the following activities:

- (a) awareness raising, *promotion and* dissemination of information to improve the knowledge of the *rights and values and* policies, *within* the areas *and objectives* covered by the Programme;
- (b) mutual learning through *the* exchange of good practices among stakeholders to improve knowledge and mutual understanding;
- (c) analytical monitoring activities to improve the understanding of the situation in Member States and at Union level in the areas covered by the Programme as well as to improve implementation of EU law, policies *and Union values within Member States, such as activities to include for instance the collection of data and statistics; the development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, indicators or benchmarks; studies, research, analyses and surveys; evaluations; impact assessment; the elaboration and publication of guides, reports and educational material;*
- (d) training relevant stakeholders to improve their knowledge of the policies and rights in the fields covered *by the Programme;*
- (e) information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools development and maintenance;
- (ea) *supporting civil society organisations and non-profit stakeholders active in the areas of the Programme to increase their capacity to react and to ensure adequate access for all citizens to their services, counselling and support activities;*
- (eb) *supporting civil society organisations and non-profit stakeholders active in the areas of the Programme to carry out advocacy activities to promote rights,*

thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect of the rule of law and contributing to democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society;

- (f) strengthening awareness among citizens, especially young people, of European culture, *cultural heritage, identity and history including with regard to totalitarian and authoritarian regimes and other defining moments of recent European history so as to strengthen remembrance and European citizens' commitment to the Union and to encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity;*
- (g) bringing together citizens of different nationalities and cultures by giving them the opportunity to participate in town-twinning activities *and civil society projects, thus creating the conditions for a stronger bottom-up approach and fostering civic and democratic engagement*
- (h) encouraging and facilitating active *and inclusive* participation in the construction of a more democratic Union as well as *raising* awareness on rights and values through support to civil society organisations
- (i) developing the capacity of European networks to promote and further develop Union law, *values*, policy goals and strategies ;
- (j) financing the technical and organisational support to implement Regulation [(EU)No 211/2011], thereby underpinning the exercise by citizens of the right to launch and support European citizens' initiatives;
- (k) enhancing knowledge of the programme and dissemination and transferability of its results and fostering outreach, including by setting up and supporting programme contact points .

ANNEX II

Indicators

The Programme will be monitored on the basis of a set of indicators intended to measure the extent to which the general and specific objectives of the Programme have been achieved and with a view to minimising administrative burdens and costs. To that end, data will be collected as regards the following set of key indicators:

Number of people reached by: (i) training activities; (ii) mutual learning and exchange of good practices activities; (iii) awareness raising, information and dissemination activities.
Number of civil society organisations reached by support and capacity building activities
Number of transnational networks and initiatives focusing on European memory and heritage as a result of programme intervention

All individual data shall be broken down by sex whenever possible; the interim and the final evaluations of the programme shall focus on each strand and on each activity and include a gender equality perspective and evaluate impacts on gender equality.