

Open topic on reinvigorating and shielding European democracy

Horizon Europe

● PENDING

Code	Scope
HORIZON-CL2-2027-02-DEMOCRACY-09-two-stage	International
Location	Curator
Europe	Marlene Faria

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Support type	Maximum Funding Rate
Non-Refundable	100%
Budget	Eligible Project Value
22M€	Up to 3.7M€

DATES & DEADLINES

Publication Date	Opening Date
October 19, 2026	March 2, 2027
Fase 1	Fase 2
May 4, 2027 at 05:00 PM GMT+2	September 30, 2027 at 05:00 PM GMT+2

DESCRIPTION

Objectives

This topic aims to reinvigorate and protect European democracy by generating new data, knowledge, methods and practical solutions that help EU institutions, national decision-makers, civil society organisations and citizens address current, emerging or unforeseen democratic challenges. Projects should strengthen citizens' long-term participation in democratic life, including but not limited to electoral processes, while increasing trust in democratic institutions and supporting more inclusive, representative and resilient democratic systems.

The action supports the objectives of the European Democracy Shield and builds on the European Democracy Action Plan and the Defence of Democracy Package. Proposals may address threats from hostile actors, declining institutional trust, unequal political participation, pressures on civil society, risks to free and fair elections, and challenges affecting free and independent media.

Funding

Funding is provided under a Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action through a lump sum grant. The topic has an indicative budget of €22 million, with approximately six projects expected to be funded. The expected EU contribution ranges between €2 million and €3.7 million per project, although proposals requesting different amounts may be considered where appropriately justified.

As a Research and Innovation Action, projects may receive funding of up to 100% of eligible costs for all beneficiary types, including for-profit entities.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Personnel Costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Other goods, works and services costs
- Subcontracting
- Indirect Costs

ELIGIBILITY

Application Mode

Consortium / Copromotion

Action Types

Research and Innovation Action

Eligible Sectors

- Social Economy
- Education & Training

Company Typologies

- Micro
- SME
- Small Mid-Cap
- Mid-Cap
- Large
- Private non-profit entities
- Public entities

EU PROGRAMME DETAILS

Call ID	Cluster
HORIZON-CL2-2027-02-DEMOCRACY-09-two-stage	2. Culture, creativity and inclusive society
Destination	Submission Mode
D1. Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance	Two-stage
EU Contribution	Expected Projects
Around €2,000,000.00 to €3,700,000.00 per project	6
Funding Rate Rule	
Up to 100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)	

OFFICIAL LINKS

Official Regulation

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL2-2027-02-DEMOCRACY-09-two-stage?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=relevance&keywords=HORIZON-CL2-2027-02-DEMOCRACY-09-two-stage&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503>

Grantavia page

<https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/open-topic-on-reinvigorating-and-shielding-european-democracy>

Schedule a meeting

<https://calendly.com/sandra-cardoso-epsa/reuniao>