European Commission

STANDING UP FOR DEMOCRACY

EU-funded research and innovation projects
from the 2023 call for proposals of Horizon Europe's
Cluster 2 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society'

HORIZON EUROPE

Research and Innovation

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DEMOCRACY

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has deep and extraordinary consequences on European security, international relations, as well as trust in democratic systems and in the media. However, it cannot be seen as an isolated event. It is part of an accelerated and ever intensifying movement challenging democracy and the liberal international order.

Indexes and reports measuring the overall situation of democracies in the world confirm their increased fragility and vulnerability over the last years: a process labelled as a "long democratic recession", a shift in the nature of "autocratisation" or a "global expansion of authoritarian rule", which quantitatively translates into an increase of the number of countries moving towards authoritarianism and an overall decline of the quality of democracies.[1]

Interdisciplinary research on the past and present challenges to democracy, and the factors that bolster it, can help to understand and strengthen democracies' resilience and stability. It will also help to counter the shift from evidence-based governance, rules-based multilateralism and consensual policymaking towards majoritarianism, unilateralism, nationalism, populism and polarisation. It will foster democracy's further development with a view to enhancing representation, participation, openness, pluralism, tolerance, the effectiveness of public policy, non-discrimination, civic engagement, the protection of fundamental rights and the rule of law. These reflect the European Union's values as defined in Article 2 of the EU Treaty.[2]

This booklet presents projects that were selected for EU funding under Horizon Europe's Global Challenges Cluster 2 "Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society" and its 2023 call for proposals "Standing up for democracy" (HORIZON-CL2-2023-DEMOCRACY-01).

The content of this booklet has been sourced from Cordis and has been carefully curated. As a result, certain words and sentences have been adjusted or combined to better suit the context and its purpose.

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RTD-DEMOCRACY-EQUALITY-CULTURE@ec.europa.eu

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[1]   Cfr. the 2021/2022 reports from Freedom House or the V-Dem Institute:
https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2021/democracy-under-siege
https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2022/global-expansion-authoritarian-rule
http://www.v-dem.net/static/website/files/dr/dr_2021.pdf
https://v-dem.net/media/publications/dr_2022.pdf

[2]   Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union, Title 1 "Common Provisions", Article 2: "The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail".

TOPIC 2023-01-01

DETECTING, ANALYSING AND COUNTERING FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE

The projects selected under this call are expected to protect democratic processes in the EU from Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) by foreign actors, while preserving the fundamental rights and freedoms underlying these processes. They should increase our ability to pro-actively detect, analyse and counter foreign attempts to harm the integrity of our democratic processes, and increase our understanding of the behavioural and societal effects of such attempts. Furthermore, they should develop a solution-space for policy makers, private stakeholders and civil society actors, all the while improving and understanding the efficiency and negative side-effects of such a space. Finally, they should improve our understanding of the tensions between democracy, FIMI, and anti-democratic forces.

ADAC.IO

ATTRIBUTION – DATA-ANALYSIS – COUNTERMEASURES – INTEROPERABILITY

The purpose of this project is to protect democracy in the EU by strengthening **the ability to deny the intended effects of Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference** (FIMI) on society. The project brings together some of the main actors behind the intellectual and technical components of FIMI, as it has been developed by the EEAS and other EU Institutions. ADAC.io is also developing upon current knowledge of how FIMI can be **detected**, **categorised**, **analysed**, **shared**, and **countered**. The project will achieve this through a series of coordinated contributions to the DISARM Framework, the NATO-Hybrid COE Attribution Framework, STIX 2.1 OpenCTI, ABCDE, and the FIMI countermeasures toolbox. This approach acknowledges the importance of Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs)

and common data handling standards to the ability to attribute FIMI actors, and further positions TTPs within the broader analytical processes that are necessary to developing countermeasures.

In addition to establishing improved **technical standards and operating procedures**, ADAC.io is generating research knowledge that can **support better decision-making about FIMI countermeasures**. For example, it will conduct research into the public impact of attribution, research methods for linguistic and visual analysis, develop the understanding of how cross-platform manipulation evades traditional analysis methods, as well as establishing a dataset of previous FIMI interventions. The project also carries a specific component on **gendered disinformation** designed to better integrate gender into the technical formats. Finally, its goal is also to ensure a close cooperation with a community of practice that includes the EEAS, representatives of member states, civil society, journalists, and the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO).

🔗 https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132444

Project n°:
101132444

Start date:
01/02/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
attribution, disarm, countermeasures, journalism

Consortium:
Lunds Universitet | **SE**
Debunk Eu | **LT**
Technische Universitat Dortmund | **DE**
Alliance4europe Ggmbh | **DE**
Uniwersytet Swps | **PL**
Universiteit Leiden | **NL**

Partner(s):
Cardiff University | **UK**

ATHENA

AN EXPOSITION ON THE FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE

Russia, China and other countries have exploited the internet to wage campaigns of disinformation and interference in Europe to disrupt democratic processes for their perceived political and economic benefit. Since its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has greatly increased its cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns against Ukraine and other countries in Europe. The EU understands the urgency of combatting such attacks against our infrastructures, economies, values and democracies.

The aim of the ATHENA project is to contribute to Europe's defence against foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI). It is examining at least **30 manifestations** **of FIMI in case studies**, including the **tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) used by attackers**. The consortium is analysing the behavioural and societal effects of FIMI to assess and develop countermeasures against the TTPs. It is also collecting and processing FIMI data, developing a knowledge graph, a **disinformation analysis toolbox**, and a dashboard showing the prevalence of FIMI and the countermeasures in action. To achieve these goals, ATHENA is conducting a comparative, eight-country analysis of legal and regulatory frameworks against FIMI and their shortcomings, to indicate where Member States and the EU should strengthen their policy framework. Additionally, this project will produce an easy-to-use questionnaire that anyone can use to decide whether they are confronted by FIMI.

The project will scan the horizon for new instances of FIMI, and for signs of evolution in disinformation (as with deepfakes and chatbots). Since the start of the project, ATHENA is engaging stakeholders through interviews, workshops, a Stakeholder Board and a cluster of relevant projects. It will share knowledge with other stakeholders and provide training in countermeasures to universities and schools. The ATHENA consortium comprises experienced partners, including SMEs, universities, cybersecurity companies, fact-checkers and an association, from Ukraine to Ireland, from Sweden to Cyprus.

🔗 https://project-athena.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132686

Project n°:
101132686

Start date:
01/11/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
disinformation, misinformation, foreign interference, cyber attackers, malware

Consortium:
FDW House Blackthorn Business Park Coes Road | **IE**
Idryma Technologias Kai Erevnas | **EL**
University of Cyprus | **CY**
Hochschule Fur Den Offentlichen Dienst In Bayern | **DE**
Rise Research Institutes of Sweden AB | **SE**
Laurea-Ammattikorkeakoulu OY | **FI**
Fundacio Eurecat | **ES**
Storyzy | **FR**
The Provost, Fellows, Foundation Scholars &

The Other Members of Board, of The College of The Holy & Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth Near Dublin | **IE**
European Organisation For Security | **BE**
Fundacion Maldita.es Contrala Desinformacion: Periodismoeducacion Investigaciony Datos En Nuevos Formatos | **ES**
Eu Disinfolab | **BE**
University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Dublin | **IE**
Issp Service LLC | **UA**

SAUFEX

SECURE AUTOMATED UNIFIED FRAMEWORK FOR EXCHANGE

Although the EU's disinformation policy has significantly developed since 2015, Russia's war in Ukraine has reminded all of us of the urgent need to stay ahead of the curve, in order to fortify our resilience against the ever-evolving threat of Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI). Russia's strategic use of FIMI in its war of aggression against Ukraine has brought an unprecedented response by those defenders who seek to safeguard universal values, democracy, and freedoms by exposing Russia's efforts to manipulate global discourses.

While governance, law, protocols, data exchange, and forensic practices should converge to address FIMI, they currently remain disparate and unaligned. This fragmented approach creates a significant hurdle in the fight against FIMI,

hindering the ability of member states to prosecute, ban, or sanction FIMI actors, or campaigns originating from state and non-state actors. To overcome this hurdle there is a need to **better synchronise the interventions and harmonise** our approach towards FIMI, as proven in the case of cyberattacks.

The SAUFEX consortium comprises concerned stakeholders who possess significant expertise and hands-on experience with the current systems and structures concerning FIMI, and are situated in the EU's Eastern regions, where FIMI incidents are frequently observed. The project strongly understands the importance of consolidating and utilising available information to establish a collective comprehension of FIMI. To achieve this, SAUFEX **proposes the creation of a FIMI dataspace**, as well as the establishment of a Resilience Council to act as an intermediary between state and non-state actors, specifically regarding interventions and FIMI attribution.

🔗 https://saufex.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132494

Project n°:
101132494

Start date:
01/02/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
standardisation, framework, resilience, council, intermediary

Consortium:
Siec Badawcza Lukasiewicz - Port Polski
Osrodek Rozwoju Technologii | **PL**
Drog Bv | **NL**
Uniwersytet Warszawski | **PL**
Debunk Eu | **LT**
Avoin Yhteiskunta Ry | **FI**
Instytut Studiow Politycznych Polskiej
Akademii Nauk | **PL**

TOPIC 2023-01-02

DEVELOPING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF INFORMATION SUPPRESSION BY STATE AUTHORITIES AS AN EXAMPLE OF FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE

The projects of this topic are expected to give a better understanding on how we can protect our fundamental rights and freedoms from information suppression, as part of Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), by authoritarian regimes. This involves conceptual and practical understanding of how authoritarian states have used and currently use information suppression and what are their Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TPPs). This should lead to a better understanding of the behavioural and societal effects of such suppression.

ARM

THE LONG ARMS OF AUTHORITARIAN STATES

What strategies do authoritarian states deploy to control information beyond their borders? While disinformation efforts have received extensive attention, little has been done to **systematically dissect information suppression strategies**. By analysing the ways in which Russia, China, Ethiopia and Rwanda suppress information, the ARM project is helping to address information suppression by authoritarian states domestically, within Europe, and among diaspora communities residing in Europe. **China** and **Russia** are selected as two major powers highly active in managing information as a part of their foreign policy. **Ethiopia** and **Rwanda**, though less influential on the global stage, are some of the most engaged African states in transnational repression. Having substantial diaspora populations in Europe,

their reach should be analysed and the implications of their information suppression should be understood.

By conceptualising information suppression as part of foreign information manipulation and suppression (FIMI), the ARM project is broadening the established approach to FIMI, which has traditionally only focused on disinformation. By delineating the concept of information suppression within the strategic toolbox of authoritarian regimes, the project contributes to the scholarly discussions on **how autocracies manoeuvre to strengthen their power base**. With the identification of the tactics, techniques, and procedures of information suppression, the project is developing a toolkit, including recommendations on how to combat information suppression operations, taking the risks and vulnerabilities of target groups into consideration. Through the lifespan of the project, it will also involve the **defender community**: key actors within policy and civil society who try to detect, understand, and respond to threats stemming from authoritarian regimes' suppression of information.

🔗 arm-project.eu
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132437

Project n°:
101132437

Start date:
01/01/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
information suppression, authoritarianism, diaspora, China, Russia, Rwanda

Consortium:
CHR Michelsens Institutt For Videnskap OG Andsfrihet Stiftelse | **NO**
Helsingin Yliopisto | **FI**
Universiteit Maastricht | **NL**
Panteio Panepistimio Koinonikon Kaipolitikon Epistimon | **EL**
Tartu Ulikool | **EE**
Rigas Stradina Universitate | **LV**
Universitetet I Tromsoe – Norges Arktiske Universitet | **NO**

Universitetet I Bergen | **NO**
Hertie School Gemmeinnutzige Gmbh | **DE**
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin Fur Sozialforschung Ggmbh | **DE**
Lunds Universitet | **SE**

DE-CONSPIRATOR

DETECTING AND COUNTERING INFORMATION SUPPRESSION FROM A TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The DE-CONSPIRATOR project explores how Russia and China pursue **information-suppression tactics** in the EU and its partner countries, and how they construct these tactics. It is carrying out research on which cases of FIMI have been the most impactful in EU and partner countries, and **how to measure the importance of future FIMI 'attacks'**, while researching which transnational dissemination and consumption networks have contributed to the **success of foreign information-suppression attempts within the EU**. The project is also looking at the social and psychological drivers behind which forms of FIMI succeed, and how the existing legal, regulatory, and diplomatic frameworks in the EU and partner countries (such as the GDPR or Digital Services Act) can be improved to build greater resilience against such efforts. Finally, DE-CONSPIRATOR explores the opportunities and pitfalls of platform-level governance to improve collective EU and partner country defences against FIMI, in an interdisciplinary, multi-method, interconnected and multinational manner.

The value of this approach is to **better understand FIMI from the perpetrator side for more accurate defence**. It will help to better understand why trans-European information networks knowingly or unknowingly contribute to the dissemination of certain FIMI attempts. The project will also evaluate and methodologically sharpen existing research on cognitive and societal drivers of which topic and content types remain most salient in 'successful' FIMI cases. Furthermore, it will approach the research gaps that exist in this field by providing an interdisciplinary focus, combining political communication, international relations, social psychology, area studies (EU, China and Russia), security studies, and computational social science. Finally, the project will present an expanded solution space, by creating an interconnected menu of legal, regulatory, diplomatic and technological policy and regulatory options to help counter FIMI in a more coordinated and targeted fashion.

🔗 https://deconspirator.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132671

Project n°:
101132671

Start date:
01/01/2024
Duration:
24 months

Keywords:
disinformation,
suppression,
foreign information
manipulation and
interference

Consortium:
Ozyegin Universitesi | **TR**
Istituto Affari Internazionali | **IT**
Rigas Stradina Universitate | **LV**
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen | **NL**
Vrije Universiteit Brussel | **BE**
Ruprecht-Karls-Universitaet Heidelberg | **DE**
White Research Srl | **BE**
Adcogito Elgsenos Tyrimu Institutas, VSI | **LT**
Ekonomi Ve Dis Politika Arastirmalar
Merkezi Dernegi | Edam | **TR**

Center for the Study of Democracy | **BG**
Centre D'informacio I Documentacio
Internacionals a Barcelona | **ES**
Georgia's Reforms Associates | **GE**
Universiteit Van Amsterdam | **NL**

RESONANT

MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH COOPERATION ON INFORMATION SUPPRESSION AND DIASPORA COMMUNITIES AS A TARGET OF FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE

In a world dominated by interconnected information flows, Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) poses a pervasive threat, jeopardising fundamental rights and freedoms. Non-EU state and non-state actors engage in covert operations, impacting both domestic and international landscapes. In this context, the RESONANT project seeks to **unravel the web of information suppression tactics employed by these actors, focusing on diaspora communities as vulnerable targets**.

With a comprehensive approach, RESONANT analyses incidents, identifies tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), and proposes a methodological toolkit and policy recommendations. By fostering awareness, resilience, and counteraction strategies, the project aims to **fortify the EU against the shadows of FIMI**. Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), including information suppression, concern a series of threatening behaviours in the information domain and represents a major challenge, in terms of counteraction and the policymaking in this matter. Numerous FIMI operations carried out by non-EU state and non-state actors, often recorded within and beyond EU borders, aim to domestically threaten fundamental rights and freedoms and could produce threatening effects outside of their borders as well.

The RESONANT project contributes to create a better picture and understanding of state and non-state actors applying information suppression and to recommend strategies, tools and methodologies to reduce the impact and the vulnerability of the target groups, for instance the Diaspora Communities. To understand which actors outside the EU use in a coordinated manner Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPS) of information suppression, this research analyses **information suppression incidents**, thus **creating an Evidence Base**. One relevant output would be the creation of a handbook of methodologies and policy recommendations, to further contribute to the communication and dissemination of practical means to counter information suppression and FIMI.

https://resonantproject.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132439

Project n°:
101132439

Start date:
01/12/2023
Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
information suppression, FIMI, diaspora communities, tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), case studies, methodological toolkit, policy recommendations

Consortium:
Formit – Fondazione per la Ricerca sulla Migrazione e sulla Integrazione delle Tecnologie | **IT**
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos | **ES**
Kentro Meleton Asfaleias | **EL**
Vrije Universiteit Brussel | **BE**
Hochschule Fur Den Offentlichen Dienst In Bayern | **DE**

Kharkiv National University Of Internal Affairs | **UA**
Asociace Pro Mezinarodni Otazky ZS | **CZ**
Hellenic Police | **EL**
Alma Mater Studiorum – Universita di Bologna | **IT**
Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine | **UA**

TOPIC 2023-01-03

NEW APPROACHES FOR COMBATTING CORRUPTION AND OTHER UNDUE INFLUENCES ON POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING

The projects in this topic should increase our knowledge on political corruption and other undue influences on policy making and policy implementation. They will show how these issues impact the understanding of democracy and the rule of law, and how citizens adhere to these values. Included in this process is the use of technologies, like AI, to prevent and detect corruption and undue political influence in the EU and its neighbourhood. This knowledge will help reinforce national and EU legislative tools for preventing and fighting corruption.

BRIDGEGAP

BRIDGING THE GAPS IN EVIDENCE, REGULATION AND IMPACT OF ANTICORRUPTION POLICIES

BRIDGEGAP is a multidisciplinary research project bringing together experts from various fields. It includes former members of the ANTICORRP consortium (Transparency International, ERCAS/SAR, CSD, University of PISA, University of Perugia) who have continued to develop data commons for understanding and monitoring corruption on the basis of objective data such as Integrity Watch, Index for Public Integrity, T-Index, and Russian Economic Footprint. Additionally, the project has partnered with new academic partners from Utrecht University who published novel methods of measuring money-laundering, and anthropologists and criminologists from IFFS who pioneered corruption studies in liberal democracies. The project also includes IT groups like YouControl, a Ukrainian organization that, for the first time,

connects data to enable searches of the assets of sanctioned individuals through its algorithm Follow the Money.

BRIDGEGAP fills the knowledge gaps on how **corruption infiltrates open societies, even across borders**. The project **produces measurements of corruption** across countries and time by its innovative models, as well as its social network maps. It offers solutions to the digital transparency gaps. Finally, it assesses **public accountability and anticorruption regulation** across EU countries and candidate countries to identify regulatory and impact gaps, thus addressing the gap between academia and policy in corruption studies. The project's research will result in academic publications as well as in interactive analytical and research commons. All its pooled data will be displayed transparently on the website as a Data Hub and will offer end users the same investigation and analytical tools as the project researchers, inviting crowdsourcing and offering online tutorials.

https://corruptiondata.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132483

Project n°:
101132483

Start date:
01/01/2024
Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
ANTICORRP, Data Hub, European transparency Index, media capture risk map, EU Compass on Anti-corruption Law (EUCAL), EUROPAM.eu, online courses

Consortium:
The Lisbon Council For Economic Competitiveness Asbl | **BE**
Luiss Libera Universita Internazionale Degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli | **IT**
Institut Barcelona D Estudis Internacionals, Fundacio Privada | **ES**
Universita Di Pisa | **IT**
Universiteit Antwerpen | **BE**
Stiftelsen Institutet For Framtidsstudier | **SE**
The Hebrew University Of Jerusalem | **IL**
Societatea Academica Din Romania

Asociatie | **RO**
Universita Degli Studi Di Perugia | **IT**
Groupe Kedge Business School | **FR**
Universiteit Utrecht | **NL**
Center For The Study Of Democracy | **BG**
Transparency International EV | **DE**
Limited Liability Company Youcontrol | **UA**

Partner(s):
University Of Glasgow | **UK**

RESPOND

RESCUING DEMOCRACY FROM POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN DIGITAL SOCIETIES

Corruption and undue influences do not only lead to democratic discontent: they also compromise the quality of democracy. But how exactly does political corruption operate today? How deep can its negative impact on democracy go? And how can anti-corruption efforts recover people's support for democracy, promote integrity, and lead to rejection of undemocratic proposals and actions?

To address these crucial challenges for democracy, RESPOND proposes a novel **interdisciplinary assessment of political corruption**, seen here as conducts proliferating in legal grey zones, that results in decision-making bias and exclusion in the policy cycle. It does so by analysing **four contemporary and relevant forms of political influence** – political finance, lobbying, revolving doors/personal ties, and media capture – to understand when they become troubling forms of influence connected to **specific political corruption patterns** that undermine fair competition and broad participation in political decision-making processes.

The project also evaluates how political corruption is understood by political elites and citizens, and how it is socially constructed through media and education. It will also examine corruption's impact on democratic legitimacy and credibility. Furthermore, it will explore how digital technologies are used for political corruption, and how they improve anti-corruption and pro-integrity strategies at both national and cross-border levels. Finally, it will engage in **co-creation with relevant stakeholders to design, test, and revise practices and tools, including new risk indicators** developed by the project, to increase civic monitoring and integrity in current democracies. Through a mixed-method research design, RESPOND is examining 27 EU countries and 11 neighbouring countries to signal ways to make governments, public officials, and political parties better perform ethically, and recover democracy's popularity.

🔗 https://www.eu-respond.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132405

Project n°:
101132405

Start date:
01/05/2024

Duration:
60 months

Keywords:
cross-border corruption, decision-making, democratic backsliding, digital media, AI applications, politics, policy Cycle, undue influences, anti-corruption, civil society, journalism

Consortium:
Alma Mater Studiorum – Universita di Bologna | **IT**
Goeteborgs Universitet | **SE**
Ceu Gmbh | **AT**
Universiteit Van Amsterdam | **NL**
Instituto De Ciencias Sociais | **PT**
Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques | **FR**
Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore | **IT**
Institut Za Globalni Analizi | **BG**
Anti Corruption Research And Education Centre | **UA**
Libera – Associazioni, Nomi e Numeri Contro
le Mafie | **IT**
Sustainable Communication Aisbl | **BE**
Akki Atlathato Kormanyzas Kutatointezet Kft | **HR**
Universitaet Duisburg-Essen | **DE**
Third Party:
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique CNRS | **FR**
Tele Radio City Societa Cooperativa Sociale | **IT**
Net7 Srl | **IT**
Partner(s):
King's College London – **UK**

TOPIC 2023-01-04

THE EMOTIONAL POLITICS OF DEMOCRACIES

The projects in this topic will bring better informed political decision-making through a thorough understanding of the interactions between emotions, values, identities, collective and individual experiences, and their impact on democratic governance. They will focus on a better integration of the emotional dimension of politics in policies, boost trust in governance, and improve communication of evidence-based policies that address the emotional needs of citizens.

CIDAPE

CLIMATE, INEQUALITY, AND DEMOCRATIC ACTION: THE FORCE OF POLITICAL EMOTIONS

Evidence suggests that **emotions play a fundamental role in political participation and communication**. It is therefore crucial to comprehend and appropriately address citizens' emotional needs and reactions to climate policies to achieve coordinated democratic action. CIDAPE is a groundbreaking project at the forefront of research on the complex interplay between **citizen engagement, climate change, and social and economic inequalities**. At its core lies the recognition that emotions play a fundamental role in political participation and communication. Understanding and responding to citizens' emotional (re)actions – as set up by CIDAPE's inquiry – are essential to achieving coordinated, democratic action.

With a focus on the perceived and articulated emotions around climate and inequality, CIDAPE proposes a comprehensive, multi-methods approach and multidisciplinary analysis of the force of political emotions in European politics of climate change. The project's Work Packages delve into emotions in the political sphere, media, everyday life, global-local entanglements, social movements, and citizen engagement showing how emotions shape people's rational argumentation, engagement, and ultimately, who and what they care about.

CIDAPE seeks to **uncover the core mechanisms and processes at the heart of political action** – at the policy, polity, and politics levels – and **proposes participatory tools, policy instruments, and methodological guides** to address these challenges. The project emphasizes that the climate crisis provides a unique opportunity to unite citizens across the political spectrum and that the success of coordinated democratic action will require high levels of public trust, strong institutions, and policies that resonate with citizens' political emotions. The Consortium assembles experienced researchers from political science, sociology, linguistics, communication science, and international relations, and distinguished representatives from civil society across nine European countries. It also has a strong dissemination strategy, aiming at diverse citizen groups at local, national, and supranational levels of democratic engagement.

🔗 https://cidape.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132327

Project n°:
101132327

Start date:
01/01/2024
Duration:
48 months

Keywords:
sociology of emotions, climate change, symbolic boundaries, activist dilemma, deliberation, citizen engagement, critical policy studies

Consortium:
Universitat Wien | **AT**
Univerzita Karlova | **CZ**
Clovek V Tisni Ops | **CZ**
Tartu Ulikool | **EE**
Universitaet Bielefeld | **DE**
Scuola Normale Superiore | **IT**
Universiteit Utrecht | **NL**
Universitetet I Oslo | **NO**
Sociologicky Ustav Slovenskej Akademie

Vied Verejna Vyskumna Instticia | **SK**
Universidad de Valladolid | **ES**

PROTEMO

EMOTIONAL DYNAMICS OF PROTECTIVE POLICIES IN AN AGE OF INSECURITY

PROTEMO investigates the **emotional connection between the state and individuals**. The focus is on protective policies and their consequences for individuals, groups of citizens and non-citizens as well as for democracy, political participation, and mobilisation. Such policies, and the emotional dynamics related to them, increasingly dominate politics in the current age of insecurity. Fear, anger, pride and hope are only some of the emotions that are often involved in political interactions and sometimes with important consequences, as events such as the Yellow Vest protests illustrate.

PROTEMO aims to address 3 questions to study **emotional responsiveness** – a crucial yet neglected aspect of representative democracy:

- how political actors perceive and influence the emotional needs of citizens (and non-citizens) and how this plays out in the policy process.

- what emotional reactions, judgements and actions elicit protective policies among individuals and publics in society.

- how citizens' emotional reactions provide feedback on the policy process.

To achieve these goals, PROTEMO will field a representative survey of 11 countries, design experiments, make focused comparisons of a smaller range of specific policies (e.g. pandemic responses, climate change) and conduct several "deep dives" to investigate how underprivileged citizens, migrant women of colour, and refugees from Ukraine, **form emotional needs towards protection and build discursive spaces to articulate them in the public sphere**. Bringing together perceptions of emotions by political actors and emotional reactions of citizens and non-citizens to protective policies, with an analysis of the emotionality of the policy process toward protective policies, allows the project to contribute to a broader debate on the future of representative democracy and affective citizenship. PROTEMO's results will lead to improved EU policy-making and enhanced communication of evidence-based policies.

https://www.protemo.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132433

Project n°:
101132433

Start date:
01/01/2024
Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
insecurity, emotional responsiveness, affective citizenship, protective policies

Consortium:
Universitat des Saarlandes | **DE**
Syddansk Universitet | **DK**
Instytut Psychologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk | **PL**
Universidade De Coimbra | **PT**
Reichman University | **IL**
Centro De Estudos Sociais | **PT**
Eurice European Research And Project Office Gmbh | **DE**

Partner:
University of Southampton | **UK**

PLEDGE

POLITICS OF GRIEVANCE AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Contemporary politics is angry and vengeful, with affective polarisation and uncompromising antagonisms posing a significant challenge for European democracies and their governance. PLEDGE interprets **political grievances as emotional signals of disaffection, frustration and insecurities** that can develop into either **anti- or prodemocratic outcomes**.

By engaging in collaborative research design and implementation involving academics, policymakers, civil society actors, and citizens, the PLEDGE project intends to **offer new understanding of anti- and pro-democratic trajectories of political grievances**, and to co-create tools and practices of emotionally intelligent and responsive democratic governance and policy communication that promote prodemocratic forms

of civic engagement. The project will also provide a framework of the emotional mechanisms of anti- and prodemocratic grievance politics that explain dynamic interrelations between the emotions, values, and identities of citizens and groups. It will empirically decode the psychological, sociocultural, and political drivers of these emotional mechanisms into operationalizable measures and indicators, focusing on 11 countries and 3 major crises: the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the climate/energy crisis.

PLEDGE will achieve these objectives through a cross-national interdisciplinary research project involving 15 partners. Its policy outputs, co-created and piloted in design coalitions, will inform democratic innovation of processes and practices and incorporate emotions in the designed-for outcomes, thus improving their efficiency.

🔗 https://www.pledgeproject.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132560

Project n°:
101132560

Start date:
01/02/2024
Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
emotions, values, identities, grievances, emotional mechanisms, democratic innovation

Consortium:
Helsingin Yliopisto | **FI**
Lunds Universitet | **SE**
Freie Universitaet Berlin | **DE**
Ethniko Kai Kapodistriako Panepistimio Athinon | **EL**
Uniwersytet Warszawski | **PL**
Vrije Universiteit Brussel | **BE**
Universitat de Valencia | **ES**
International Psychoanalytic University Berlin Ggmbh | **DE**

Istanbul Bilgi Universitesi | **TR**
Hun-Ren Tarsadalomtudomanyi Kutatokozpont | **HU**
Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University | **UA**
Stimmuli For Social Change | **EL**
Partners:
King's College London | **UK**
University of Southampton | **UK**

MORES

MORAL EMOTIONS IN POLITICS – HOW THEY UNITE, HOW THEY DIVIDE

Liberal democracy is struggling with the challenge of citizens' indifference and detachment from politics, while anti-system politicians are over emotionalising policy issues, which furthers polarisation in society. The normative stance of MORES is that both under- and over emotionalization of politics should be avoided. The former leads to the affective disconnect of citizens from politics, while the latter spurs tribal politics and hampers deliberation. Both extremes threaten democracy.

MORES argues that moral emotions and moralised political identities – a conceptual innovation of the project – have a **practical value in dealing with the challenges of affective politics**. Moral emotions are linked to the interests or welfare of society – or at least of persons other than the subject itself. They can unite people towards common causes or split them along moralised political identities. The project uses research to inform democratic decision-making on how moral emotions should interact with values, policies and political practices. It will create state-of-the-art methods and generate new empirical data on the type of moral emotions triggered by political actions and phenomena such as campaigns, leadership styles and illiberal politics, as well as on the role of moral emotions in forging moralised political identities, the effect of moral emotions on political behaviour such as policy support and civic activism and the contextual social phenomena, including digital universes, of the moral emotions-politics nexus.

Through research engagement with key stakeholders, MORES will create several innovative tools including a method for policymakers to measure the emotional weight of policies, games to strengthen citizens' political-emotional resilience both in real-life and metaverses, and policy ideas to embed citizens' moral-emotional needs in policymaking towards bolstering trust in democratic governance.

🔗 https://mores-horizon.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132601

Project n°:
101132601

Start date:
01/01/2024
Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
moral emotions, moralised political identities, democratic governance and policymaking

Consortium:
Hun-Ren Tarsadalomtudomanyi Kutatokozpont | **HU**
Uniwersytet Im. Adama Mickiewicza W Poznaniu | **PL**
European Citizen Action Service | **BE**
Eotvos Lorand Tudomanyegyetem | **HU**
European University Institute | **IT**
Stiftung Europa-Universitat Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) | **DE**

Game In Society | **FR**
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **IL**
Universite De Lorraine | **FR**

ENCODE

UNVEILING EMOTIONAL DIMENSIONS OF POLITICS TO FOSTER EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

Despite emotions being a driver of political choices, building democratically meaningful emotional narratives in politics remains an uncharted territory. The main objective of ENCODE is to **decode the meanings of emotions and encode them to policy-making strategies** aiming for a positive emotional turn, breaking the cycle of depolarisation.

ENCODE builds itself on the novel concept of **affective pluralisation, as opposed to affective polarisation**. This project is carrying out research in 6 geographically diverse European countries, representing both EU member states and candidate countries. The project's main outputs will be a catalogue of best practice to tackle disinformation in social media, emotional gap maps, validated survey questions, and democratic resilience heatmaps.

These outputs will then be used in the emotional narratives co-designed by diverse groups of citizens in innovations labs The narratives will be set by citizens, and only in the next step discussed by expert teams who will elaborate policy-making strategies, the roadmap for their implementation, alongside future foresight scenarios which will be disseminated widely across EU and EU wide community of 1000+ members. This approach creates emotional bonds between ordinary citizens, increases trust in governance, and supports better informed political decision-making and communication.

🔗 https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132698

Project n°:
101132698

Start date:
01/06/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
emotions in politics, populism, EU values, fostering democracy, positive policymaking narratives, policy recommendations, depolarisation, future scenarios, foresight, co-creation, tackle disinformation

Consortium:
Asm Research Solutions Strategy Spolka Z Ograniczona Odpowiedzialnosci | **PL**
Uniwersytet Wroclawski | **PL**
Kobenhavns Universitet | **DK**
Universitat Wien | **AT**
Re-Imagine Europa | **BE**
Predictby Research and Consulting S.l. | **ES**
The European Center for Populism Studies | **BE**
Center for the Study of Democracy | **BG**
Institut Za Demokratija Societas Civilis

Skopje | **MK**
Univerzitet U Sarajevu | **BA**

TOPIC 2023-01-05

THE CLIMATE IMPERATIVE AND ITS IMPACT ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Projects under this call are expected to enhance the ability of democratic governance to address complex and long-term challenges through better understanding of the socio-political dimension of the climate crisis and its impact. This includes the impact of the green transition and the increasing role of non-majoritarian institutions in decision-making. They should also enhance the capacity to mobilise and engage citizens through participation, better informed decision-making and communication on climate related policies.

DEMETRA

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES, AND SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION: DELIBERATION, INCLUSIVENESS, AND CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Society is caught at the crossroads of democratic governance and **the urgent call for sustainability**. Striking this delicate balance is the EU-funded DEMETRA project. It aims to navigate tensions by analysing innovative **deliberative participatory processes** and offering inclusive solutions for the democratic engagement of citizens. Focusing on the critical case of transforming our food systems, the project systematically compares and identifies best practices across Europe. Focused on innovative deliberative participatory processes, such as

citizens' assemblies and e-governance, it aims to empower all segments of society, emphasising gender and intersectional aspects. Through a multidimensional approach and cross-national comparative design, DEMETRA will identify best practices for citizen engagement and sustainable societies.

DEMETRA will demonstrate means to alleviate tensions between democratic governance and climate and sustainability transitions through an analysis of new deliberative participatory processes (DPPs) such as **citizens' assemblies** and **e-governance**. These bottom-up processes can be highly inclusive allowing to afford a genuine political voice to all segments of society. Accordingly, **gender and intersectional aspects** (e.g. socioeconomic background, ethnicity) will be focused on throughout the project, in particular regarding citizen participation.

The project will systematically compare DPPs' setup, processes, and outcomes to identify best practices that contribute to citizens' democratic engagement and the co-construction of sustainable societies. Furthermore, the project identifies DPPs that maximize inclusiveness and empowerment across social groups, particularly those at the margins of society, and identifies widely applicable solutions to engage in the transformation toward sustainable food systems.

In view of the climate imperative and related environmental challenges, DEMETRA seeks to provide tools for a democratic governance of sustainability transformation.

🔗 https://www.qmul.ac.uk/demetra/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132286

Project n°:
101132286

Start date:
01/05/2024
Duration:
42 months

Keywords:
democratic governance, climate and sustainability transitions, deliberative participatory processes, citizen engagement, inclusiveness, empowerment

Consortium:
Scuola Normale Superiore | **IT**
Tartu Ulikool | **EE**
Institut Catholique De Lille | **BE**
Private Universitaet Witten/Herdecke Ggmbh | **DE**
Uppsala Universitet | **SE**
Campi Aperti per la Sovranita' Alimentare | **IT**
Ernahrungsrat Fur Koln und Umgebung | **DE**
Cinemovel Foundation | **IT**

Partners:
Universite De Geneve | **CH**
University of Newcastle Upon Tyne | **UK**
Queen Mary University of London | **UK**

CO-SUSTAIN

PATHWAYS FOR CO-CREATION BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COLLECTIVE ACTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

In Western democracies, traditional institutional participation is on the decline while non-institutional participation has been increasing. **Non-institutional participation for the climate transition** creates spaces where **alternative** ideas and **novel forms of political participation** can develop. This can prompt the radical yet necessary changes for a climate transition.

The CO-SUSTAIN project seeks to address this opportunity **for a democratic climate transition**, by defining and testing new democratic pathways enabling local policymakers to support novel forms of

political participation, and empowering citizens to act for a sustainable transition. To develop a better understanding of political participation in environmental imperatives, CO-SUSTAIN will study 18 historic examples in 6 different European countries for **involvement, civic engagement, formal political participation, and activism**.

It will use institutional ethnography and system mapping to deliver best practices to stimulate and support political participation around climate imperatives. These best practices will feed into four case studies, one for each form of political participation: involvement through Spanish energy communities, civic engagement through Food Solidarity in Turin (IT), manifest political participation through participatory processes promoted by government in Northern Europe (EE, FI), and activism through the Lobau Bleibt social movement (AT). The outputs and outcomes of the deliberations will be assessed to draw conclusions for more democratic climate policymaking across Europe.

https://co-sustain.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132467

Project n°:
101132467

Start date:
01/01/2024
Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
co-creation, policy, measure, climate, sustainable, citizen, deliberation, transition

Consortium:
Universita Degli Studi Di Torino | **IT**
Universitaet Fuer Bodenkultur Wien | **AT**
Universidad De Granada | **ES**
Tartu Ulikool | **EE**
Lappeenrannan-Lahden Teknillinen Yliopisto
Lut | **FI**
Instytut Gospodarki Surowcami Mineralnymi
I Energia Pan | **PL**
Asociacion Ecoserveis | **ES**
Euroquality Sas | **FR**

RETOOL

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FOR CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

Reconciling the **twin challenge of the global climate crisis and the need to bolster democratic governance** is a major concern for policymakers and societies. To meet this challenge, the RETOOL project aims to advance our understanding of how to address these twin challenges. The project boasts four key objectives:

1. Developing a novel analytical framework and open-access data sets;

2. Investigating how democratic institutions across Europe are responding to climate change;

3. Reinvigorating democratic governance by synthesising project insights and presenting them in impactful formats;

4. Acting as a bridge between academic research and policymakers and practitioners, as well as civil society and the wider public.

RETOOL brings together an international and interdisciplinary consortium, with partners from Western Europe (Ireland, UK, Belgium, Austria), Northern Europe (Finland), Eastern Europe (Estonia), and Southern Europe (Italy, Greece), combining expertise in political science, political sociology, deliberative democracy, environmental law, European studies, and public administration. The consortium includes a democracy practitioner foundation (DDF), and all partners are closely associated with practitioner and civil society networks and involved in hands-on activities. RETOOL will be undertaken by a mature, settled consortium that has significant experience of working together, with six of our nine partners core members of the EU-funded Jean Monnet Network GreenDeal-NET.

https://retoolproject.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132661

Project n°:
101132661

Start date:
01/01/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
RETOOL

Consortium:
Dublin City University | **IE**
Vrije Universiteit Brussel | **BE**
Universita Degli Studi di Trento | **IT**
Universiteit Gent | **BE**
Universitaet Fuer Bodenkultur Wien | **AT**
Ita-Suomen Yliopisto | **FI**
Holistic Ike | **EL**
Teaduse Ja Kultuuri Sihtasutus Domus Dorpatensis | **EE**

Partner:
London School Of Economics And Political Science | **UK**

TOPIC 01-06

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FOR TIMES OF DISRUPTIVE CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

The projects in this topic will contribute to a better understanding of the need for evaluation and changes in the social contracts in the EU Member States. They will investigate and propose safeguards and mechanisms needed in circumstances when the foundations of the social contract are questioned, as well as propose scenarios for what new social contracts could look like and what narratives need to be developed for this, all in the context of EU membership.

EXPRESS2

EXPRESS 2 SPECIFY AND PROTECT THE EU SOCIAL CONTRACT

Climate change, conflicts, and various crises have significantly affected public trust in the EU and its institutions, **raising concerns about the quality of the EU's social contract with its citizens**. The Express2 project seeks to examine these recent changes, their impacts, and citizens' needs and doubts, with the goal of formulating a new EU social contract and agreement of association. To accomplish this, the project is identifying **key disruptive elements, examining their interrelationships, devising solutions, and establishing measures to safeguard the contract from potential disruptions**. The project will collaborate with institutions and policymakers to reinforce and strengthen the social contract.

EXPRESS2 is a project that addresses, from a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-sectional perspective, the growing demand for a new, more democratic, inclusive, and sustainable social contract in the EU. More precisely, the project contributes to creating a draft EU social contract that will be submitted to inhabitants, Member States and EU institutions. The goal is to strengthen the EU agreement of association by promoting social dialogue, civic engagement, and integration.

An express draft shall be achieved by means of policy dialogue, campaign implementation, collaborative workshops, advocacy planning, and innovative offline and online formats and tools to create spaces for dialogue. To this end, the project is involving EU policymakers and institutions throughout the project to obtain a more appealing and legitimate EU social contract draft. In addition to academic, policy, and socio-economic outcomes, EXPRESS2 will offer recommendations to strengthen the social contract's resilience and further development.

https://express2project.eu/en
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132426

Project n°:
101132426

Start date:
01/03/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
Deliberative and participatory democracy, political inclusion, protection of the EU founding values and principles, political contractualism, consent, stability and disruption

Consortium:
Universitat Autonoma De Barcelona | **ES**
Kobenhavns Universitet | **DK**
Scuola Superiore Di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento S Anna | **IT**
Hogskolen I Molde | **NO**
Sabanci Universitesi | **TR**
Kozep-Europai Egyetem | **HU**
Mouvement Europeen | **BE**
Dublin City University | **IE**
Universidad Carlos Iii De Madrid | **ES**

Third Party:
Fundacio Privada Parc De Recerca Uab | **ES**

Partner:
University of Essex - **UK**

C03

CONTINUOUS CONSTRUCTION OF RESILIENT SOCIAL CONTRACTS THROUGH SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATIONS (C03)

The concept of a **social contract** refers to the (imagined) agreement between community members. Understanding social contracts requires analysing how definitions and practices shape their scope, implications, and resilience in the face of societal transformations. It needs context sensitivity and the ability to shift perspectives between different settings. There is a long legacy of various definitions of a social contract in political theory. There is also a long historical legacy of practiced social contracts, in countries inside and outside the European union.

To grasp the impact of the social contract between individuals and groups as well as between the demos and the state across societies, it is crucial to understand the concept in plural and analyse how definitions and practises also shape the scope, implications, and resilience of social contracts in the face of societal transformations. Based on the analyses of the limitations of, and challenges to the social contracts in political theorising and practices, this project aims at **developing and promoting a more democratic, more inclusive and more open model of social contracts**, which manifest political and social resilience in the face of major societal challenges, crises, and anti-democratic tendencies.

Drawing from 8 empirical case studies in EU member states, and in 3 non-member states, the project will research safeguards and mechanisms for resilient social contracts over time. While the theoretical ambition of the C03 project is to analyse how the contemporary theories of the social contract contribute to our understanding of the social contracts in the current crises-driven European political environment, the empirical ambition is to investigate contradictions and tensions between practices, narratives and lived experiences in social contracts across Europe through concrete cases. As a result, C03 generates evidence-based knowledge on the safeguards and mechanisms for promoting resilient social contracts, which support citizen involvement and democracy across Europe.

https://www.co3socialcontract.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132631

Project n°:
101132631

Start date:
01/02/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
political theory, philosophy, gender, social contract

Consortium:
Helsingin Yliopisto | **FI**
Uppsala Universitet | **SE**
Centro De Estudos Sociais | **PT**
Fondatsiya Tsentar **ZA** Liberalni Strategii | **BG**
Demos Helsinki Oy | **FI**
Hochschule Fulda-University of Applied Sciences | **DE**

Istanbul Bilgi Universitesi | **TR**
Sveuciliste U Zagrebu Fakultet Politickih Znanosti | **HR**
The American University of Paris | **FR**
Higher Educational Establishment Ukrainian Catholic University | **UA**

TOPIC 2023-01-07

INTERSECTIONALITY AND EQUALITY IN DELIBERATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC SPACES

Projects under this topic aim to develop a thorough understanding of deliberative and participatory democratic practices through an intersectional lens. These projects will enhance the design, implementation and evaluation of deliberative and participatory processes at different levels of government, focusing on systemic exclusion and inequalities faced by minorities and marginalised communities. They engage with structure of powers and involve both conceptual and practical research to identify the limitations of current participatory exercises and opportunities for improvements. Additionally, they will develop and pilot innovative designs for citizens engagement that consider the accumulation and intersection of discrimination or stigmatisation.

INSPIRE

INTERSECTIONAL SPACES OF PARTICIPATION: INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT, EMBEDDED

Participatory and deliberative democracy (PDD) **processes** have on the one hand been celebrated for their potential to address political distrust and polarisation by deepening public engagement. On the other hand, they are often accused of being cosmetic solutions to deep-seated problems that continue to exclude already disempowered groups (along socioeconomic, gender, racial, physical, and mental ability lines). INSPIRE aims to tackle these accusations and failures **by fostering intersectional equality, through participatory spaces** that are inclusive and start from the needs and assets of marginalised groups. Additionally, these participatory spaces need to be designed to remain resilient to changes in government, embedded within the wider public sphere and in productive relationships with policymaking institutions.

The INSPIRE project employs three key ideas: **the political economy of participation, co-design, and assemblage theory**. It places emphasis on socioeconomic factors that affect people's capabilities to participate, or the political economy of participation. It also uses a range of **arts-based, digital and creative methods to co-design with participants inclusive participatory spaces** that move beyond just talk-centric deliberation, which can exacerbate existing inequalities. To analyse and foster intersectional equality within PDD, the project will overcome the linearity and oversimplification that sometimes characterise methodological approaches in the field, which tend to overlook the dynamism, complexity, and messiness of participation. The concept of assemblage helps to look at how different participatory practices coexist, interact and change across local, national and transnational levels. Using these theoretical and analytical tools processes and power dynamics that exacerbate inequalities can be traced more clearly, and democratic and inclusive participation can be strengthened through its many forms and practices.

https://www.inspiredemocracy.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132292

Project n°:
101132292

Start date:
01/04/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
participatory democracy, deliberative democracy, digital participation, coproduction of knowledge, arts-based participation, assemblage theory

Consortium:
Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet Frankfurt Am Main | **DE**
Fundacion Platoniq | **ES**
Univerzita Karlova | **CZ**
Ipsos Nv | **BE**
Uniwersytet Warszawski | **PL**
University College Cork – National University of Ireland, Cork | **IE**
Aphelion Ltd | **IE**
Filosoficky Ustav Av Cr V V I | **CZ**
Instituto De Ciencias Sociais | **PT**
Applied Research And Communications

Fund | **BG**
Hun-Ren Tarsadalomtudomanyi Kutatokozpont | **HU**
Prossima Democrazia – Laboratori Deliberativi Aps | **IT**
Universitat Autonoma De Barcelona | **ES**

Partners:
University Of Lancaster | **UK**
King's College London – **UK**
The University of Edinburgh | **UK**
The University of Birmingham | **UK**

iDEM

INNOVATIVE AND INCLUSIVE DEMOCRATIC SPACES FOR DELIBERATION AND PARTICIPATION

Deliberative and participatory processes currently lack full legitimacy due to the exclusion and marginalisation of several vulnerable communities from democratic spaces. iDEM will address this issue in the context of **marginalisation and exclusion of people** who need support to fully **be able to read, write and comprehend language** (around six million individuals in the EU and over 90 million people globally). iDEM will lay the theoretical foundations for the analysis of current marginalisation from deliberative processes of diverse **under-represented groups due to language skills** and propose, implement, and evaluate inclusive deliberative and participatory spaces. Its methodology is based on a user-centred approach for making participatory processes more accessible and inclusive, developing advanced natural language processing technologies and artificial intelligence to empower under-represented groups with tools to facilitate communication and dialog in democratic spaces.

iDEM is contributing to the co-creation of the next-generation **multilingual models** aimed at detecting possible sources of problems in understanding messages and biases for several European languages and audiences, while automatically adapting texts in those languages to be accessible and unbiased for these audiences and providing AI tools for enhancing the controllable generation of messages and discourses. This project will **innovate democratic spaces with customised, user-centric technology enhancing the participation and representation of marginalised groups by providing unbiased and inclusive technology**. To do so, iDEM is also building on the results of relevant past projects and seeking collaboration with related projects and relevant centres for democracy in Europe.

🔗 https://idemproject.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132431

Project n°:
101132431

Start date:
01/01/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
artificial intelligence, natural language processing, language generation, text simplification, easy-to-read, accessibility, mini-publics, AI for good

Consortium:
Universidad Pompeu Fabra | **ES**
Cfs Consulting Franchise & Sales Gmbh | **AT**
Nexus Institut Fur Kooperations Management Und Interdisziplinare Forschung Gmbh | **DE**
Plena Inclusión Madrid Organización De Entidades En Favor De Personas Con Discapacidad Intelectual De Madrid | **ES**
The National Microelectronics Applications Centre Ltd | **IE**
Associazione Nazionale Famiglie Dipersone

Con Disabilita Intellettivarelazionale Anffas Onlus | **IT**
Fundacion Cibervoluntarios | **ES**
Actionaid International Italia ET | **IT**
Institut Municipal De Persones Amb Discapacitat | **ES**
Ajuntament De Barcelona | **ES**

Partner:
University Of Leeds - **UK**

SINCRONY

INTERSECTIONAL INCLUSION IN DELIBERATION AND PARTICIPATION WITH YOUTH

SINCRONY aims to ensure the **meaningful inclusion in deliberative and participatory processes of youth who experience social disadvantage and marginalisation**. The goal is to offer policymakers, public servants, researchers, teachers, youth workers, facilitators of deliberative processes, and youth CSOs concrete instruments, guidelines, and solutions to renovate deliberative and participatory practices implemented in public governance and schools.

The consortium of nine partners, consisting of seven universities, the ALDA European network of local democracies, and an SME focusing on communication and dissemination, relies on a multidisciplinary and multi-methodological expertise in psychology, education, sociology, political science, gender studies, social research, intersectionality, and media analysis. A Stakeholders' Collaborative Network, including expert advisors, local municipality representatives, schools, civil society, and youth organisations, are also being engaged throughout the project.

Together, they will enhance the inclusivity of deliberative practices in two local municipalities (in Italy and Finland) and design, test, and deliver an innovative, co-constructed intersectional approach called **the Intersectional Participatory Action Research-and-Deliberation**. Pilot projects are being developed in seven local municipalities and four schools (in Italy, Portugal, the UK, and Denmark). The project is also designing participatory formats, creating tools, and defining ethical guidelines. By improving the democratic quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness, and legitimacy of deliberative and participatory processes, the project will contribute to greater social justice for all youth.

🔗 https://sincronyproject.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132459

Project n°:
101132459

Start date:
01/01/2024

Duration:
42 months

Keywords:
youth inclusion, social justice, intersectional approach, youth agency

Consortium:
Alma Mater Studiorum - Universita Di Bologna | **IT**
Universidade Do Porto | **PT**
Alda - Association Europeenne Pour La Democratie Locale | **FR**
Wedo Project Intelligence Made Easysl | **ES**
Aalborg Universitet | **DK**
Turun Yliopisto | **FI**
Universitaet Innsbruck | **AT**

Partners:
Universite De Geneve | **CH**
The University Of Manchester | **UK**

EU-CIEMBLY

CREATING AN INCLUSIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

In the landscape of EU political life, the absence of effective mechanisms for inclusive citizen participation has resulted in the perpetuation **of intersectional discrimination and the exclusion of vulnerable groups**. Despite efforts to enhance participatory democracy, the oversight in addressing intersectionality within EU law has hindered progress. In this context, the EU-CIEMBLY project aims to confront these challenges and pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable EU Citizens' Assembly. Specifically, the project will design a tool that not only addresses current issues at the EU level, but also provides a prototype adaptable at national and local levels. By bridging theory, evaluation, and piloting, the project stands poised to reshape participatory democracy in the EU.

EU-CIEMBLY addresses the need for **the introduction of new forms of citizens' participation** and deliberation in EU political life and, particularly, an EU Citizens' Assembly whose design and implementation fully addresses issues of intersectionality, inclusiveness, and equality. While there has been an admirable appetite to improve the landscape of participatory and deliberative democratic mechanisms at the EU level, this has not always been accompanied by adequate considerations of how to build these mechanisms **to ensure that there is no intersectional discrimination, nor exclusion of vulnerable groups of citizens**. In fact, the concept of 'intersectionality' within EU law has presented difficulties even without bringing into the picture the context of citizens' democratic participation. The time is ripe to create a new participatory tool with intersectionality at the forefront.

This project will provide the analytical framework and the prototype through which such a tool can be created in the form of a Citizens' Assembly that can be established at the EU level, with features allowing for the transfer of a (modified) prototype to the national and local levels. To do this, the project moves from theorising to evaluating and finally piloting such a tool, and concludes with recommendations. In this way, EU-CIEMBLY seeks to be **the first project that uses an academic and theoretical understanding of issues of intersectionality, equality, and power relations in the design of an innovative and inclusive EU Citizens' Assembly**.

https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132694

Project n°:
101132694

Start date:
01/01/2024

Duration:
48 months

Keywords:
citizens' assembly, participatory and deliberative democratic mechanisms

Consortium:
Universidade De Coimbra | **PT**
Universidad Complutense De Madrid | **ES**
European Citizen Action Service | **BE**
University Of The Witwatersrand Johannesburg | **SA**
Institute For Methods Innovation | **IE**
Aspon Consulting Ltd | **CY**
Universita' Degli Studi Di Bergamo | **IT**
The Research Trust Of Victoria University of

Wellington | **NZ**
University Of Waikato | **NZ**
Make.org | **FR**

Partner:
University Of Essex | **UK**

TOPIC 2023-01-08

POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES FOR THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE WESTERN BALKANS

Projects under this topic are expected to help improve the European Union's neighbourhood policy and accession process, in line with the political agenda of the European Union towards the Eastern Neighbourhood countries and the Balkans. They will develop forecasts and scenarios of the geopolitical ambitions of Russia, China and other countries regarding these neighbouring countries, and in this way help achieve a strengthened resilience and foreign policy arsenal against military threats on the European continent.

INVIGORATEU

INVIGORATING ENLARGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY FOR A RESILIENT EUROPE

How can the EU invigorate its enlargement and neighbourhood policy to enhance Europe's resilience? Challenges include redefining enlargement strategies, responding to regional geopolitical ambitions, and fortifying against new military threats.

In this context, the InvigoratEU project's first goal is to investigate **how to reform the EU's enlargement strategy in a new geopolitical phase, how to respond to other actors' geopolitical ambitions in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans**, and **how to rebuild the EU's foreign policy arsenal** in view of a new era of military threats, combining the modernisation and geopolitical logics of EU enlargement, leading to new data.

InvigoratEU's second goal is to elaborate an **evidence-based**, forward-looking vision for the EU's political agenda. InvigoratEU's Expert Hub, Civil Society (CS) Network, Youth Labs, Workshops for Young Professionals and Policy Debates will co-design a multidimensional toolbox in a gaming set up, which will result in context-sensitive and actionable policy recommendations for European and national political stakeholders, and young European citizens.

The third goal is to deploy a **communication**, **dissemination** and exploitation strategy broadcasting the project's recommendations from day one, to maximize our scientific, policy and societal impact in invigorating the EU´s enlargement and neighbourhood policies to enhance Europe´s resilience. Ultimately, InvigoratEU is a deliberately large consortium respecting the diversity of Europe and political perspectives.

🔗 https://invigorat.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132124

Project n°:
101132124

Start date:
01/01/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
strategic foresight, enlargement policy, civil society engagement

Consortium:
Universitaet Duisburg-Essen | **DE**
Institut Fur Europaische Politik Ev | **DE**
Pmc Research Center | **GE**
SS. Cyril And Methodius University In Skopje | **MK**
Asociatia Obsteasca Institutul Pentru Initiative Strategice | **MD**
Javna Ustanova Univerzitet Crne Gore Podgorica | **ME**
Centar Za Evropske Politike | **RS**
Ukrainian Centre For Economic And Political Studies Named After Oleksandr Razumkov | **UA**
Trans European Policy Studies Association | **BE**

Finnish Institute Of International Affairs | **FI**
Istituto Affari Internazionali | **IT**
Latvijas Arpolitikas Instituts | **LV**
Vilniaus Universitetas | **LT**
Uniwersytet Jagiellonski | **PL**
Centre D'informacio I Documentacio Internacionals A Barcelona | **ES**
Universiteit Maastricht | **NL**
Carnegie Europe Foundation | **BE**
Partner:
Eidgenoessische Technische Hochschule Zuerich | **CH**

RE-ENGAGE

RE-ENGAGING WITH NEIGHBOURS IN A STATE OF WAR AND GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the EU has responded by re-engaging with its neighbours. This builds on the assumption that bringing them into the European family of liberal democracies will increase the resilience of the whole European community against external negative interference. Combining insights from a variety of academic fields, RE-ENGAGE will deliver innovative research and concrete advice on how the EU should adapt **its foreign policy tools to the current context**.

Russia's war against Ukraine has radically altered European security, not only causing extreme civilian suffering in Ukraine, but posing a direct threat to neighbouring countries fearful of the war spreading. Confronted by the direst security crisis

in decades, EU policymakers are forced to fundamentally **rethink their security policies**. Europe has demonstrated unexpected unity and resolve, adopting a series of sanctions against Russia, and increasing national defence spending to better handle potential military threats. This has also led to a **revival of the EU enlargement process**. While this will not improve EU resilience to military threats in the narrow sense, it may counter hybrid warfare, which is the more likely threat faced by the EU and most of its neighbours.

The neighbourhood policy and the accession process require urgent adjustment to **build strong, resilient neighbourhood states capable of countering external threats**, particularly those posed by hybrid warfare. A systematic investigation of how this can be achieved in the current context without compromising the EU's values and security is therefore needed. Since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, there have been increasing calls from the EU for a more context-sensitive approach to its neighbours. RE-ENGAGE will assist the EU in determining how best to achieve this goal through an in-depth study of six cases – three in the Western Balkans and three in the Eastern Neighbourhood.

https://re-engaging.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132314

Project n°:
101132314

Start date:
01/01/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
democracy, social cohesion, Eastern neighbourhood, Western Balkans, EU enlargement, resilience, forecast, hybridity, war, instability, Albania, Bosnia, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine

Consortium:
Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt | **NO**
European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) E.V. | **DE**
Ustav Mezinarodnich Vztahu V.V.I. | **CZ**
Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento S Anna | **IT**
Tsentar Za Akademichni Izsledvania Sofia Fondatsia | **BG**
Lunds Universitet | **SE**

Institut Za Savremenu Istoriju | **RS**
European Education Initiative | **AL**
Univerzitet U Sarajevu | **BA**
Ukrainska Asociaciya Evropeyskih Studiy | **UA**
Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy | **GE**
Universitatea De Stat Din Moldova | **MD**

REUNIR

RESILIENCE, ENLARGEMENT, UNION, NEIGHBOURHOOD, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. FUTURE-PROOFING EU SECURITY, ENLARGEMENT AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICIES FOR A NEW AGE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine has ended the post-Cold War European security order, creating new realities in countries neighbouring the EU and shattering illusions in several member states about the Kremlin's true intentions in wider Europe. By granting candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova and a European perspective to Georgia, the EU has rejected a Russian sphere of influence and instead determined where its future borders should lie. However, this decision has not yet led to policies tailored to effectively respond to a geopolitical context which also sees China

and other state actors competing for influence. The **Eastern Partnership** still needs to be fitted with security and connectivity components. In the accession process, existing formats had already reached their limits with, inter alia, the obstructionism by certain member states that is linked to the divisive issue of EU internal reform. This has cost the EU a lot of credibility in the Western Balkans and will take years to resolve.

REUNIR, a project with 12 partners from across Europe, examines how the **EU can strengthen its foreign and security toolboxes to bolster the resilience and transformation of (potential) candidate countries in a new age of international relations**. REUNIR's foresight approach takes the fundamental uncertainty and openness of alternative futures seriously.

Adding the effects of **'protean power'** unleashed in unforeseen circumstances, to a multi-disciplinary approach, to the research of the **EU's 'control power'** in relations with strategic rivals, the project empirically assesses foreign threats to the military, socio-economic and democratic resilience of 9 neighbouring countries, determines capability shortfalls, maps local perceptions of the EU, and political perspectives inside the EU on neighbourhood relations. Outlining scenarios up to 2035, REUNIR offers evidence-based policy recommendations to mitigate malign foreign interference and strengthen the EU's external action.

🔗 https://reunir-horizon.eu/
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132446

Project n°:
101132446

Start date:
01/01/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
EU foreign and security policy, Eastern neighbourhood, Western Balkans, Russia, China, Foresight

Consortium:
Centre For European Policy Studies | **BE**
Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet Ntnu | **NO**
Kolegium Europejskie | **PL**
Universite Paris Iii Sorbonne Nouvelle | **FR**
Global Public Policy Institute EV | **DE**
Universiteit Maastricht | **NL**
Sihtasutus Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuuringute Keskus | **EE**

Universitaet Graz | **AT**
Beogradski Centar Za Bezbednosnu Politiku Udruzenje | **RS**
National University Of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy | **UA**
Asociatia Obsteasca Institutul Pentru Politici Si Reforme Europene | **MD**
Georgian Institute of Politics | **GE**

GEO-POWER-EU

EMPOWERING THE GEOPOLITICAL EU IN THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE WESTERN BALKANS

GEO-POWER-EU's main objective is to contribute to the empowerment of the EU to manage security threats within the deteriorating geopolitical environment that lies in its Eastern Neighbourhood and in the Western Balkans.

The project's main ambition is to propose a comprehensive EU strategy towards these regions that will employ new policy, using foresight concerning the strategic ambitions of other geopolitical actors. The project has 6 objectives:

1. propose ideas for the adaptation of EU Enlargement policy to the new realities;

2. question the continued relevance of the EU's Eastern Partnership and propose reforms;

3. assess the influence of other geopolitical actors (United States, Russia, China and Turkey) in the two regions;

4. provide strategic foresight about the prospects of geopolitical competition in the two regions;

5. explore the EU's ability to contain military threats from the deteriorating geopolitical environment beyond its borders;

6. propose a comprehensive and multidimensional EU strategy that will guide relations with the Western Balkans/Eastern Partnership countries.

The project gathers expertise from different disciplines, adopting a participatory and inclusive approach, with the systematic involvement of researchers from third institutions, decision-makers, stakeholders, and citizens – including in the regions being analysed - throughout the project cycle.

https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132692

Project n°:
101132692

Start date:
01/06/2024

Duration:
36 months

Keywords:
EU-Enlargement, EU accession process, strategic autonomy, security threats, strategic foresight, Eastern neighbourhood

Consortium:
University of Peloponnese | **EL**
Kentro Erevnon Notioanatolikis Evropis Astiki Mi Kerdoskopiki Etaireia | **EL**
European Neighbourhood Council | **BE**
Alma Mater Studiorum - Universita Di Bologna | **ES**
Wiener Institut Fur Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche | **AU**
Sveuciliste U Rijeci | **HR**
Institut Za Demokratija Societas Civilis Skopje | **MK**
Univerzitet U Beogradu | Fakultet Političkih Nauka | **RS**

Vienneast Consulting Gmbh | **AU**
Democratization Policy Council(Dpc) EV | **DE**
Institutul Pentru Dezvoltare Si Initiative Sociale Viitorul | **MD**
Odeskiy Nacionalniy Universitet Imeni I.i. Mechnikova | **UA**
Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies – Gfsis | **GE**
Utrikespolitiska Institutet Informationsavd | **SE**
Third Party:
Akademija Primijenjenih Umjetnosti Sveucilista U Rijeci | **HR**

This booklet gathers the research and innovation projects selected for EU-funding from the 2023 call for proposals "Standing Up for Democracy" of Horizon Europe's Cluster 2.

Project information