



CERV-2026-TOWN-TT

# TOWN TWINNING Call for Proposals

CERV Programme

Thank you for connecting, we will start at 10:00 CET

Online Info session EACEA  
3rd June 2026

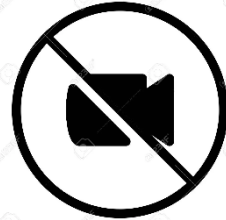
# Housekeeping rules

**Microphone  
OFF**



Your **mic** is muted

**Camera  
OFF**



Your **camera** is switched off

**Material:**

The presentations will be **recorded** and the videos, together with the slides, will be published on the event webpage

**No use of chat in Webex**

# Privacy statement

- The presentations of this **info session will be recorded** using Webex for the purpose of publication on EACEA website for 1 year. Q&As won't be recorded.
- Please refer to the Data Protection Notice of the event for more information.
- By turning on your camera and microphone, you consent to such recording and subsequent publication. Participants are reminded to **keep their camera and microphone off/muted** if they do not wish to **appear in the recording**.
- **No personal data will be collected!!**

# Agenda

**Welcome and opening remarks by Srd Kisevic,**

EACEA Unit B.3 Citizens and EU values – Deputy Head of Unit

**Part 1: Presentation of Town Twinning 2025 Call results by Magdalena Kiefer**

EACEA Unit B.3 Citizens and EU values

**Part 2: Presentation of Town Twinning 2026 Call features**

- **Political Priorities of CERV Programme by Christopher Sharp,**

DG JUST Unit H.3 Programme and financial management – Programme manager

***Questions and answers session***

**Part 3: Eligibility criteria and other features of the call by Cristina Turci, Michela Beati, Magdalena Kiefer**

EACEA Unit B.3 Citizens and EU values

***Moderated by Michela Beati, EACEA Unit B.3***

# Agenda

**Part 4: Presentation on gender mainstreaming & EU values by Marco Sioli,**  
EACEA Unit B.3 Citizens and EU values – Assistant Programme Manager

*Questions and answers session*

*Coffee break (15 min)*

**Part 5: Tips and Tricks by Cristina Turci,**  
EACEA Unit B.3 Citizens and EU values – Programme Manager

**Part 6: Communication obligations by Stella Mancini,**  
EACEA Unit B.3 Citizens and EU values – Project Officer

**Part 7: National Contact Points Presentation by Nena BIBICA, NCP Slovenia**

*Questions and answers session*

**Closing remarks**

*Moderated by Michela Beati, EACEA Unit B.3*



# Welcome & opening remarks

Srd Kisevic (Deputy Head of Unit EACEA/B3)  
EACEA Unit B.3 Citizens and EU values



# TT team introduction

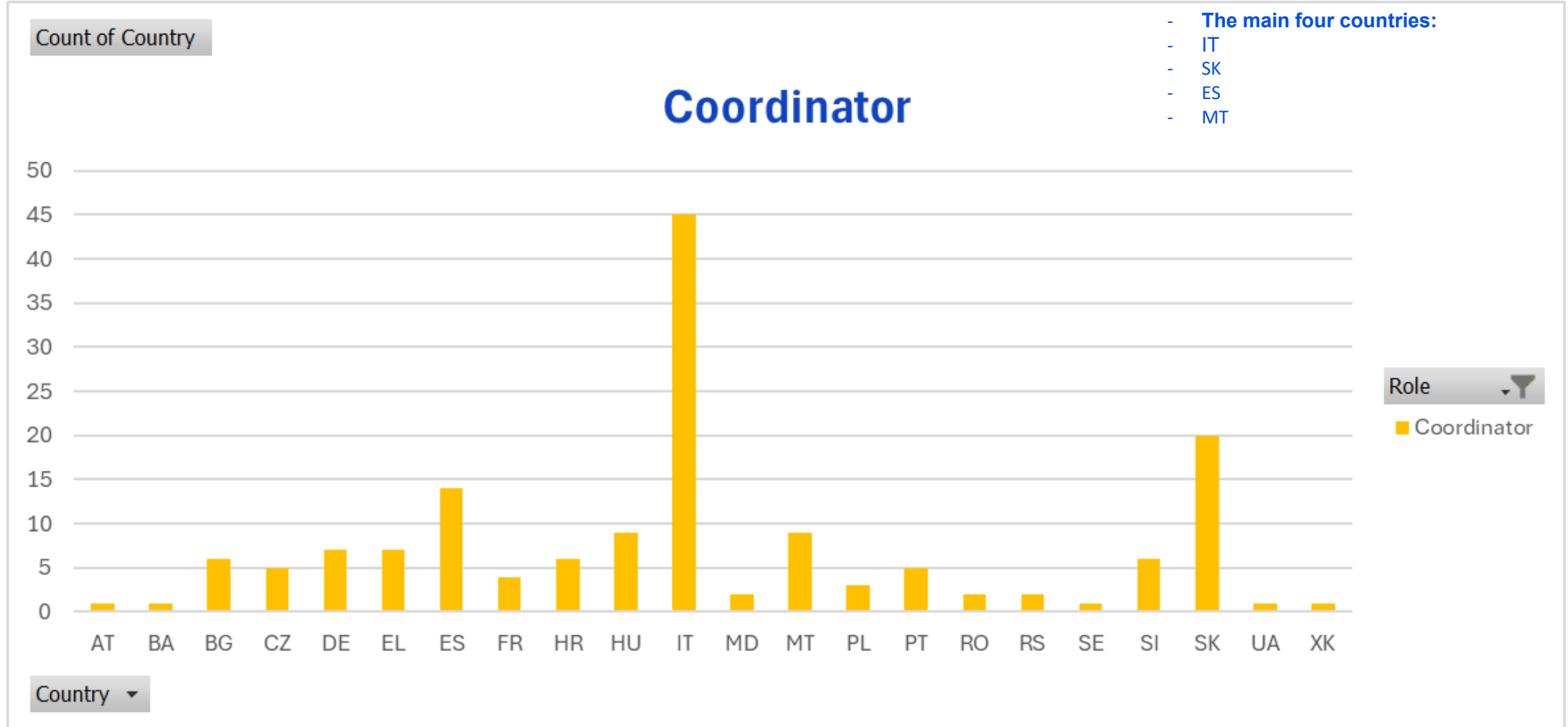
*Michela Beati, EACEA B3*

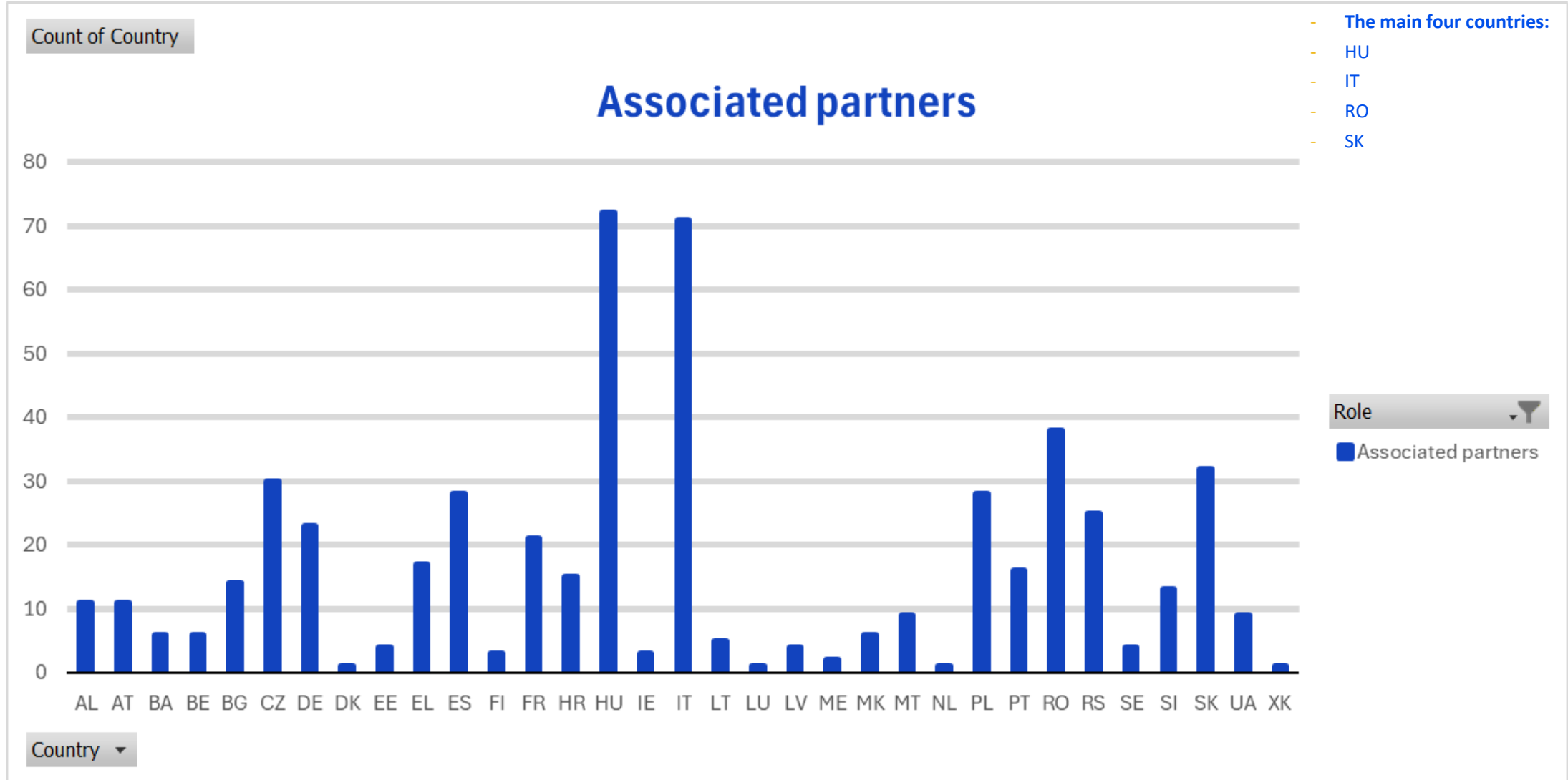


# Town Twinning CALL 2025 - OVERVIEW

- Number of proposals submitted: **480**
- Award of grant to **143** proposals for the total amount of EUR **5.000.000**
- Main thematic areas covered by the applications: **EU values**, including **equality, inclusion, solidarity, and diversity**, as well as concrete areas such as **gender equality, culture, youth, and European citizenship**.

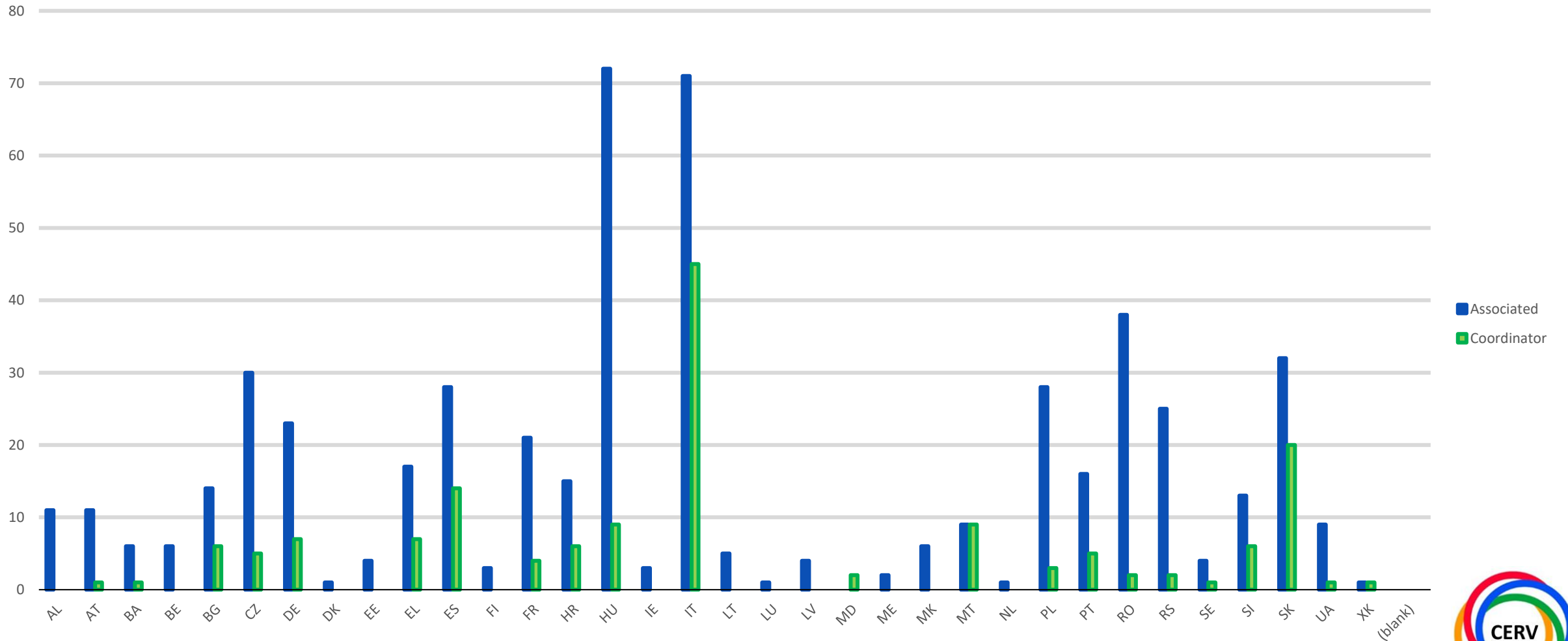








# 2025 Selected proposals by country





# 2026 Call Town Twinning

*Magdalena Kiefer & Cristina Turci, EACEA B3*



# Town Twinning CALL 2026 – Key dates

Call Publication: **28th April 2026**

Call opening: **6th May 2026**

Call deadline indicated date: check the F&TP + TEAMS for updates

Evaluation period: **Sept 2027 – March 2027**

Information on evaluation results: **March 2027**

GA Signature: **by mid-June 2027**

**Available budget EUR 6 000 000**





## CALL 2026 – what is new?

- **Increased budget** (max 6 000 000 EUR)
- 2026 **New political priorities**
- Paragraph on the financial rules for the counting of **EU officials** in the lump sum
- Need for **municipalities to explain their role in the project** in the case they are represented by NGOs.
- Calculator integrated in the application

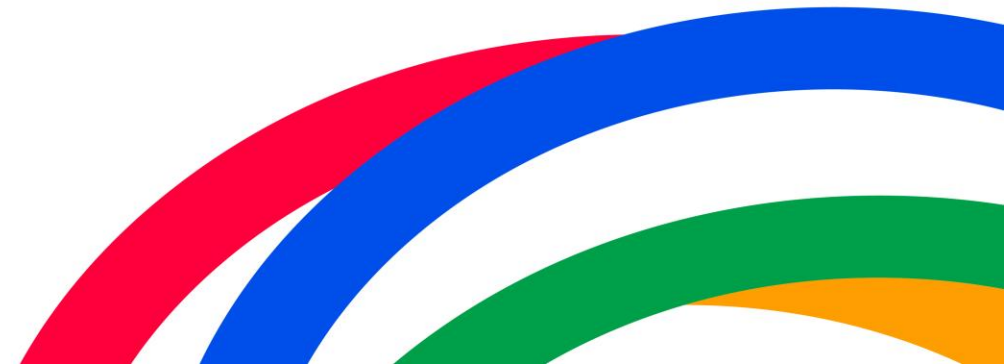




# Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme

**POLITICAL PRIORITIES AND EU  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Christopher Sharp  
European Commission - DG JUST





# CERV objectives, budget and structure

To protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the EU **Treaties and the EU Charter**

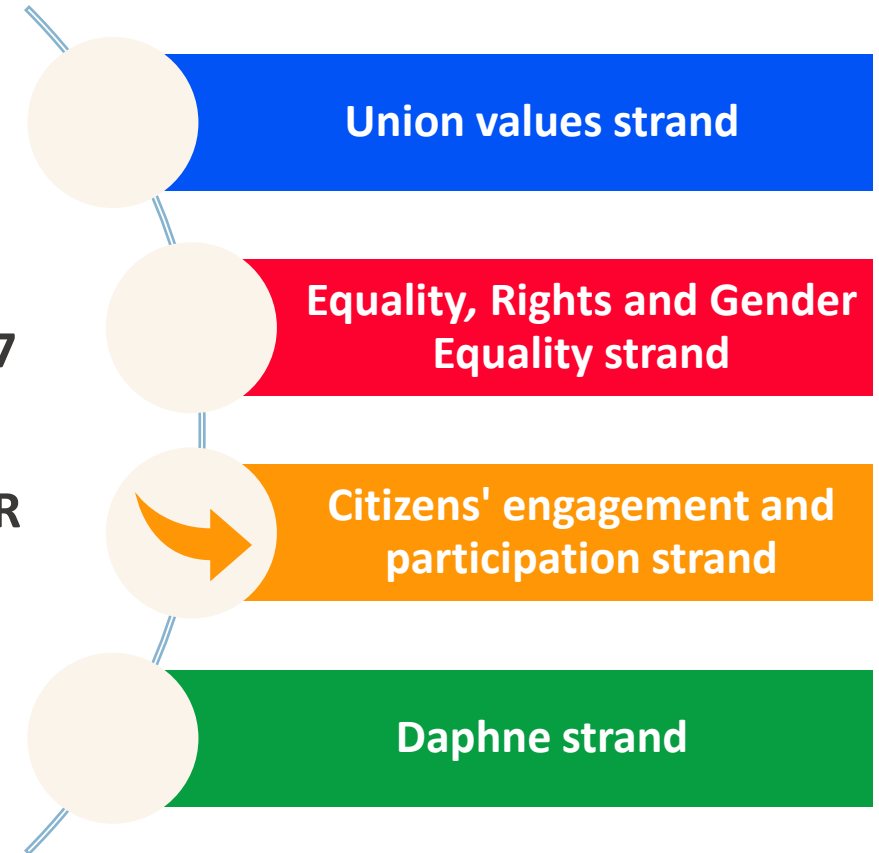
**Supporting civil society organisations** and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national and transnational level,

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

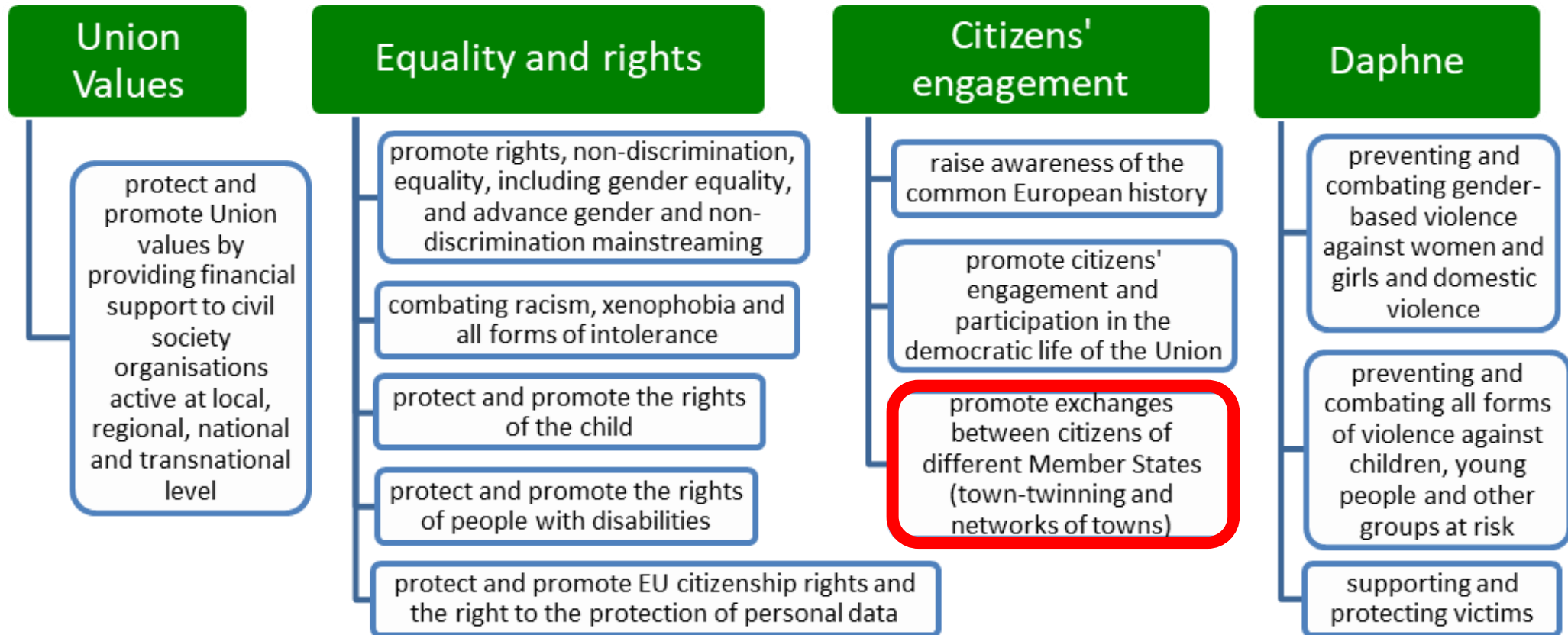
**2021-2027**

**1,55**

**Billion EUR**



# CERV Programme – Four strands





# Objectives for the 2026 Town Twinning call

*This call aims to promote exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through town-twinning, to give 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.*





# Objectives for the 2026 Town Twinning call

- to promote exchanges between citizens of different countries;
- give citizens practical experience of the wealth and diversity of the common heritage of the Union
- empower citizens of all ages across all communities
- strengthen the resilience of electoral processes,
- promote citizens' engagement in the democratic life,





# Objectives for the 2026 Town Twinning call

- guarantee peaceful relations between Europeans and to ensure their active participation at the local level;
- promote a positive, inclusive and secure environment,
- reinforce mutual understanding and friendship between European citizens;
- encourage cooperation between municipalities and the exchange of best practices,
- support good local governance and reinforce the role of local and regional authorities in the European integration process and in fostering societal resilience and democratic participation at grassroots level.





# Policy Priorities for the 2026 Town Twinning call

## Specific themes and priorities for 2026:

- Fostering **active citizenship** and **democratic participation at local level**, including through actions under the **European Democracy Shield**, such as *strengthening the network of local councillors, promoting citizens' and youth participation as well as initiatives that promote democratic engagement through participatory and deliberative tools*;
- Promoting **inclusion, equality and respect for diversity**, including by *addressing racism and supporting the empowerment and visibility of people and communities affected by racial or ethnic discrimination*;





# Policy Priorities for the 2026 Town Twinning call

## Specific themes and priorities for 2026:

- Raising awareness of **EU values, rights and democratic standards**;
- Strengthening **social resilience** and **address local challenges**, including by *promoting **community engagement**, improving **media and digital literacy**, and reinforcing the resilience of **electoral processes**, including at local level*;





# Policy Priorities for the 2026 Town Twinning call

## Specific themes and priorities for 2026:

- Supporting **community-based action to prevent and raise awareness of violence**, including **domestic violence and violence against children**, and **promoting inclusive approaches to local well-being**
- Encouraging **cultural participation and heritage**
- Raising awareness of **accessibility and participation for persons with disabilities**



# Q & A session





# Eligibility - Applicants

- Legal entities (public or private bodies) from [eligible countries](#)
- Eligible countries (EU MS – eligibility subject to signed association agreements) - [list-3rd-country-participation cerv en.pdf](#)
- Public bodies or non-profit organisations: eligible if representing local authorities (a letter of support signed by a Municipality)
- Submitted by a single applicant, which should be registered in the Participant Register (PIC)





# Eligibility - Other conditions

- Municipalities or other level of local authorities of **at least two eligible countries** (coordinator + at least 1 associated partner)
- Number of participants: **minimum of 50 participants** in the Town-Twinning events, of which **25 are invited international participants**
- Geographical location: **activities in eligible countries**
- Duration of the project: from **6 to 12 months**
- Projects must comply with ethics and EU values





# Types of activities related to Town Twinning

Workshops

Seminars

Conferences

Training activities

Experts' meetings

Awareness raising activities

Data gathering

Dissemination of good practices

Use of social media

Participatory tools to get involved in democratic debates

Digital tools to support citizens' engagement in democratic life





# Award criteria and evaluation process

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	25	40
Quality — Project design and implementation	n/a	40
Impact	n/a	20
<b>Overall (pass) scores</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

- Maximum points: 100 points
- Individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance': 25/40 points.
- Overall threshold: 70 points.
- Proposals that pass the individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance' AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget.





# What is it needed?

- Application Form Part A
- Application Form Part B
- The KPI Tool (to be filled in directly online)

## **Mandatory annexes and supporting documents:**

- letter of support signed by the Municipality
- list of previous projects
- for all participants implementing activities involving children:
  - private bodies - copy of their policy;
  - for public bodies - **child protection policy declaration**

Proposals are limited to maximum **40 pages** (Part B)





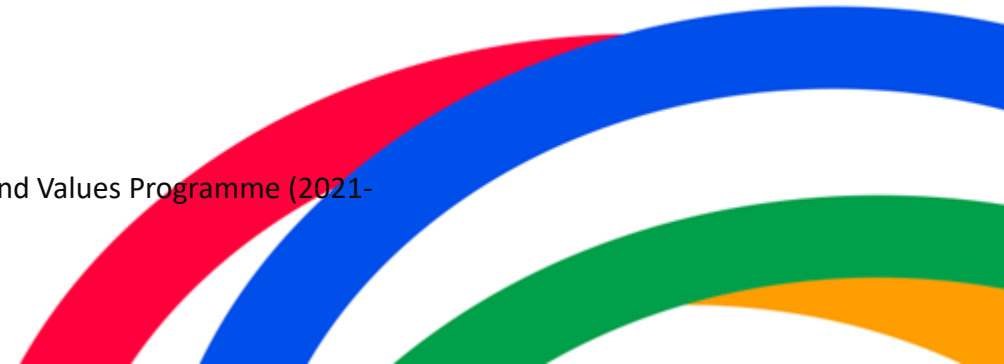
# Lump-sum

The grant will be a lump sum grant. This means that it will reimburse a fixed amount, based on a lump sum or financing not linked to costs.

*For in-situ events, the lump sum amount is intended to cover staff costs, travel and subsistence, room rental/interpretation/translation/technical resources, communication/dissemination costs, costs for research and IT tools, and coordination costs. For online events, costs for travel and subsistence costs have been excluded.\**

In this action the amount is based on number of participants and number of countries involved.

\*[Decision](#) of 26 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sums for actions under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (2021-2027)





# Lump-sum

## In-situ events

PARTICIPANTS	LUMP SUM
> 205	50.745,00
191/205	47.360,00
176/190	43.975,00
161/175	40.590,00
146/160	37.210,00
131/145	33.830,00
116/130	30.450,00
101/115	27.905,00
86/100	24.530,00
71/85	20.300,00
56/70	16.910,00
41/55	12.690,00
25/40	8.455,00





Novelty: New calculator presentation





Menu

General Info

Declarations

Participants

Work packages

Beneficiary Calculation Sheet

Budget Overview

Other Questions

Test project Call town twinning 2020 CERV Lump Sum Grant

### Work packages

Search Text

Sort By  Sort By  Ascending

Work package no.	Work package name	Lump Sum		
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WP1	Town Twinning Test 1	0 €		
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Work package no.	Work package name *	Lump Sum
<input type="text" value="WP1"/>	<input type="text" value="Town Twinning Test 1"/>	<input type="text" value="0 €"/>

Event Number	Country of the event	City	Number of International direct participants	

Items per page:

Showing 1-1 of 1

Navigation icons: back, forward, page 1

Validation Summary



Proposal ID: SEP-211337918  
Call: CERV-2026-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT  
Type of action: CERV-LS  
CERV Lump Sum Grants

Proposal acronym: Test project  
Topic: CERV-2026-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT  
Type of model grant agreement: CERV-AG-LS  
Call Town Twinning 2026  
CERV Lump Sum Grant

### Work packages

Search Text

Sort By

Creation of the new Word Package

Work package no.	Work package name	Lump Sum		
WP1	Town Twinning Test 1	0 €		

Creation of the new events

Work package no.  Work package name  Lump Sum

Move to the right to add the total number of participants

Country of the event	City	Number of International direct participants	Total number of dire.	
France	Paris	Participants 176/190	180	
Belgium	Ghent	Participants 25/40	50	

Items per page: 10

Showing 1-1 of 1

<b>Proposal ID</b> SEP-211342844	<b>Call: CERV-2026-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT</b> Call for proposals for Town Twinning	<b>Topic: CERV-2026-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT</b> Call Town Twinning 2026
<b>Proposal acronym</b> dfg	<b>Type of action: CERV-LS</b> CERV Lump Sum Grants	<b>Type of model grant agreement: CERV-AG-LS</b> CERV Lump Sum Grant

## Beneficiary Calculation Sheet

Search Text    **Sort By**

No.	Participant name	Role	Total requested EU contribution
1	Test Camelia-Valeria	Coordinator	50,745 €

No.	Participant name	Role	PIC
1	Test Camelia-Valeria	Coordinator	913842918

WP no.	WP name	Lump Sum	Requested EU contribution
WP1	Test1	65,120 €	50,745 €

Items per page:    
Showing 1–1 of 1

Items per page:    
Showing 1–1 of 1

<b>Total budget</b> 65,120 €	<b>Total requested EU contribution</b> 50,745 €
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# Why you should pay specific attention to gender mainstreaming in your proposal

- Attention to gender mainstreaming has an impact on the score you receive in the evaluation.
- Integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of your project increases the quality of your proposal
  - Please noted that the equal distribution participants per gender is consider standard practice
- For more information on gender mainstreaming please visit:  
<https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming>



# How to make sure you integrate a gender perspective?

- Basic** • Did I conduct a **gender equality analysis** to assess my project's design, implementation and impact?
- Basic** • Did I take into account **gender aspects in my needs assessment**?
- Basic** • Will the data and indicators I collect and create be **disaggregated by sex**?
- Basic** • Did I include in my proposal a **commitment to advance gender equality**?
- Basic** • Did I include in my proposal a **commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results achieved** by the project in the evaluation phase?
- Advance** • Do I plan to create **gender-specific indicators** to measure the project's gender equality objectives?



# Integrating a gender perspective into projects

[Introduction to Gender Mainstr...](#)

[Gender analysis | EIGE \(europa.eu\)](#)

## Needs assessment

- Are project objectives designed, based on a robust analysis and aligned to strategic gender needs?
- Are women's needs in the area of your project the same as those of men?
- Have men and women been consulted to identify needs and opportunities?

## Monitoring & Evaluation

- Are people from all gender involved in the monitoring and evaluation?
- Are indicators to measure project progress and goals gender sensitive?
- Does your data collection and interpretation approach allow to capture gender differences?

## Implementation & Dissemination

- Are any gender specific factors (location, mobility, care work) limiting participation in the project?
- Are there specific changes introduced by the project and would they impact women and men?
- Is the project using gender sensitive language?

# Adherence to EU values in CERV

*“Outline measures to be taken and the policies in place to guarantee full compliance with the EU values mentioned in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights”*

## **Art.2 Treaty on European Union (EU values)**

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.

## **Art.21 Charter of Fundamental Rights (Non-discrimination)**

Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.

Within the scope of application of the Treaties and without prejudice to any of their specific provisions, any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited.



# Q & A session





# Coffee break

10:35 - 10:50





# What is a successful proposal?

- **Impactful:** concrete targets and results
- **Realistic** objectives
- **Originality** (a new angle)
- **Innovation**
- **A variety of countries** (min 2 while more is desired for a more positive assessment)
- **Build on existing goodpractice :**  
concrete multiplier effect (partner search via formerly supported projects)



# Tips and tricks



- **First of all : DON'T PANIC, we are here to help you 😊**
- **Read** carefully the Call!
- Focus on **eligibility criteria** and **mandatory documentation** (e.g. eligible countries, letter of support, calculation etc.)
- Set a good **collaboration** among partners/ identify clearly the **activities** to be done in advance
- Use of AI (needs assessment)
- **Communicate!**

# Tips and tricks



- Projects in **scope**: choose at least one specific priority
- Set **realistic** objectives . Don't be overambitious
- Set **concrete targets and results** , which can have an **impact** at local and larger level
- **Clear writing** in the application form (rule of 5 W)
- Integrate in the proposal the **gender** mainstreaming and/or the **child** protection perspective if the activities involve minors
- Declare that your proposal is **EU Values** compliant.

# Tips and tricks



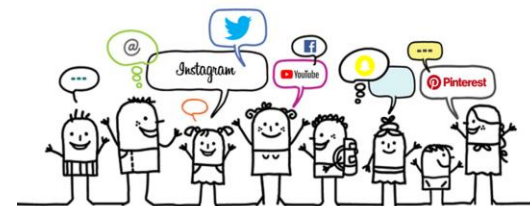
- Don't wait until last moment to submit!
- Something not clear? **contact EACEA TT team**; check the **FAQ** section in the portal
  - contact the **NCP in your country**; you can get support in your own language !



# Communication & Dissemination

# Communication, dissemination and visibility

- Communication and dissemination activities **impact the score** you receive in the assessment
- Who are your **target groups**? define them to select the most effective **communication channels**.
- What are the **communication channels** identified? Are they accessible to the general audience, in particular to people from marginalized groups?
- Is the action likely to produce a positive multiplier effect?
- Is the project linked to EU policies ? (for ex 2025/2026 = European Year of Digital Citizenship Education)



# Communication, Dissemination and Visibility

➤ Do the activities meet points such as:

- ...contributing to the promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination?
- ...ensure the visibility of the EU funding ?

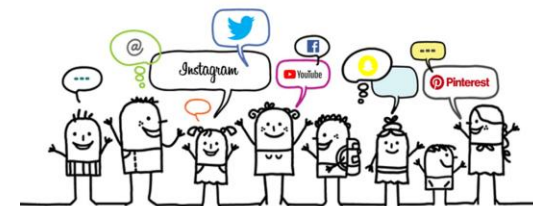


Funded by the  
European Union



Co-funded by the  
European Union

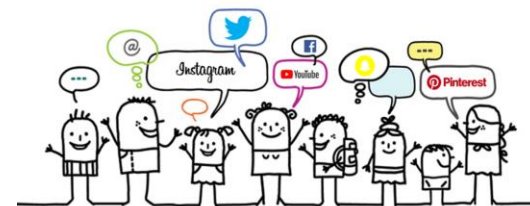
➤ Practical Guide: <https://europa.eu/!DxdBqR>



# Communication, Dissemination and Visibility

## ➤ What to provide in the system?

- ...are the photos expressive ? (number of participants, use of promotional material & EU emblem/disclaimer, activities)
- ...media coverage ? (Links to publications, project website, social media channels in Event Description sheet)
- ...the Event Description Sheet (EDS) (also to be provided on your project/municipality website)



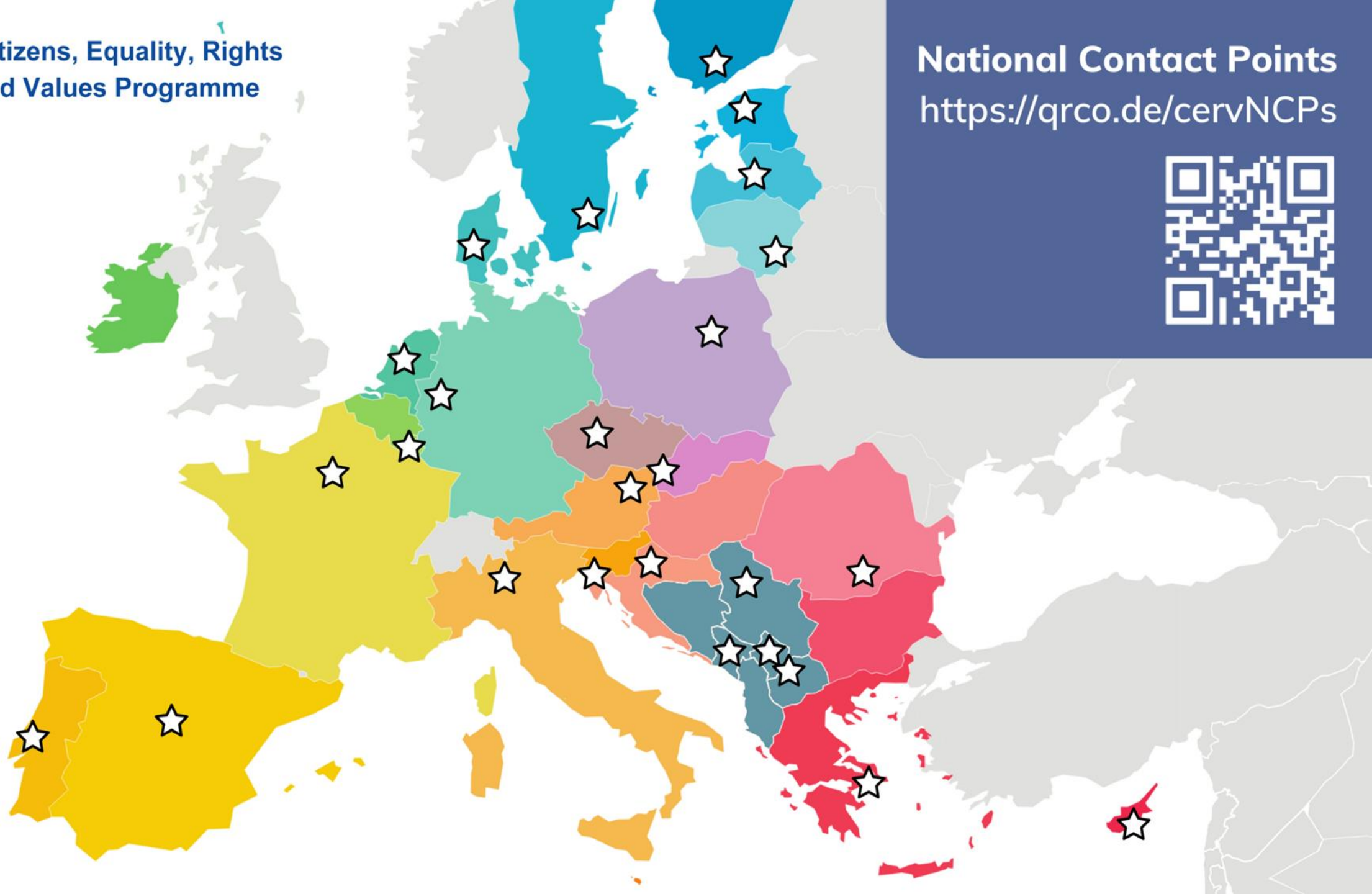


# National Contact Points for the CERV Programme

Nena BIBICA, NCP Slovenia



Citizens, Equality, Rights  
and Values Programme



**National Contact Points**  
<https://qrco.de/cervNCPs>



# Our Mission

- **INFORMATION:** providing information about the programme & its funding opportunities and about the policy initiatives in the areas covered by the programme.
  - **SUPPORT:** facilitating the match-making between potential partner entities on a transnational level; supporting applicants during the application process.
    - **ADVICE:** facilitating the participation of stakeholders and giving advice to applicants; increasing the capacity of stakeholders to take part in the programme.
      - **DISSEMINATION:** dissemination of best practice projects; increasing knowledge and awareness of programme results.

## CERV Project Partner Search (by NCPs)

The CERV Project Partner Search by NCPs enables you to share your project proposals, ideas, or interests in preparation for upcoming CERV funding calls. This allows potential participants and partners from all programme countries to find and connect with you!

LINK:

<https://qrco.de/CERVps>



Search Filter: CITIZENS-CIV

Search in All Submissions All time

Advanced Filters

- Funding Call(s) includes CITIZENS-CIV
- Choose a Field includes

+ Add New Filter

Apply Filter

ID	Date	Tags	Role
6	Feb 7, 2025	CHAR-LITI-SPEECH CHAR-LITI-WHISTLE CI	Leader and Partner
7	Feb 7, 2025	CITIZENS-CIV CITIZENS-TOWN-NT CITIZEN	Partner
8	Feb 6, 2025	CHAR-LITI-CIVIC CHAR-LITI-CHARTER CHA	Partner
9	Feb 5, 2025	CHAR-LITI-CIVIC CHAR-LITI-CHARTER CHA	Leader and Partner
10	Feb 5, 2025	CITIZENS-CIV	Partner
11	Feb 5, 2025	CITIZENS-CIV	Partner
12	Feb 4, 2025	CITIZENS-CIV CITIZENS-TOWN-NT CITIZEN	Leader
13	Jan 31, 2025	CHAR-LITI-CIVIC CHAR-LITI-CHARTER CHA	Partner or Leader

Name	Email (will be visi...)	Organisation / Entity
		LIBERITUTTI SCS
		Federal Union of European Natio
		Cooperativa San Bernardo
		Partner Information Form
		Destiny Center for Excellence (D
		Operetes un muzikālā teātra bied
		CPAS/OCMW Schaerbeek
		Association for Developing Volun

**NCP CERV Partner Search**



<https://qrco.de/CERVps>

# CERV Citizens' Forums

- Learn about current CERV calls
- Receive direct support from the CERV NCPs
- Present your project idea and moderate a break-out room
- Expand your project team and create synergies
- Participate in break-out rooms initiated by other participants
- Join projects in the making
- Create new projects and project applications





[https://www.linkedin.com/  
company/cerv-programme](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cerv-programme)



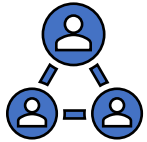
[www.facebook.com/  
CERVprogramme](http://www.facebook.com/CERVprogramme)



[https://www.instagram.com/  
cervprogramme](https://www.instagram.com/cervprogramme)



# Contacts and useful links



[CERV Contact Points](#) in most EU countries



DG Justice and Consumers [newsletter](#)



[EU representation](#) in your country



[EU Direct](#) for information, services and support

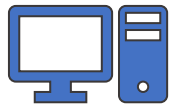


Best practices : Example of [funded projects](#) under previous [CERV call](#) and under the previous programme [Europe for Citizens](#)



EACEA-CERV@ec.europa.eu

# More information



- [short video](#) explaining how to obtain the Participant Identification Code (PIC)



- Grant & Tender Portal Online Manual: [Applying for funding](#)



- [Decision](#) of 26 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sums for actions under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (2021-2027)

Thank you  
For your attention

