

CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

CALL: [Protecting and nurturing democracies](#)

SUBMISSION: 7 October 2021

BUDGET: 3 MILLION Euro

TYPE OF ACTION: Research and Innovation

1. DEMOCRATIC POLITICS IN THE EU'S NEIGHBOURHOOD

Scope: Since the EU Council conclusions of 2009, EU democracy support has evolved and has been fine-tuned, with advances and setbacks. Following the adoption of the EU strategic framework on human rights and democracy in 2012, the EU adopted three Action Plans⁶ in order to implement its commitments and reach its goals. The current Action Plan covers years 2020-2024⁷

Proposals are expected to address some of the following points:

To take stock of developments in democracy building or failure in the EU's neighbourhood countries. Research should draw lessons as regards success factors and barriers (political, economic, social, cultural, etc.) in the different regional, national and supranational contexts. The role of third country actors like the United States of America, China, Russia and their impact on democratisation processes or the entrenchment of authoritarianism should be examined. Similarly, the interplay of security and stability considerations and democratisation support in the EU's agenda and actions should be analysed.

Proposals should also assess the mechanisms the EU uses to support political change, as well as examine the discourses and narratives it employs and the actors it targets. They are expected to collect reliable and comparable data on funding for democracy, human rights, gender equality, the rule of law and good governance support, in order to build an account of the outcomes of a decade's efforts, and thus facilitate learning and improvement. International cooperation with partners from countries in the EU's neighbourhood is strongly encouraged.