

Prioriteti kojima projekti trebaju doprinosti u 2015. godini (uz doprinos jednom od ponuđenih Općih i jednom od ponuđenih Specifičnih ciljeva programa Europa za građane)

Strand 1: European remembrance (cjelina 1: Europsko sjećanje)

Through its Strand 1, the Europe for Citizens programme supports projects that reflect on the causes and development of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history or that concern other defining moments and reference points in recent European history, connecting history to the developments of today (see general description of strand 1, paragraph 1.3.2. below). The particular historical moment, which will be commemorated in 2015, will be the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II for its dramatic influence on modern European history. World War II was the most catastrophic war in history; democratic governments were dismantled, large groups of citizens were excluded and persecuted, atrocious crimes against humanity were committed and human losses were enormous. More than 50 million people died, including 6 million victims of the Holocaust, 27 million soldiers and 19 million civilians. The European continent, but also other parts of the world were left in ruins. But the aftermath of World War II was also the beginning of a new era defined by a situation of political antagonism that became known as the Cold War. It was also the beginning of a new era in European history that led to the common effort of European countries to secure lasting peace through deeper cooperation. Following the Schuman Declaration of 1950, which proposed placing Franco-German coal and steel production under the jurisdiction of a common "High Authority" within an organisation open to the participation of other European countries, the European Coal and Steel Community was formed in an attempt to avoid another war by establishing an economic cooperation and a common market for important natural resources. This was the first step to the foundation of the current European Union. In this context, under Strand 1 of the Europe for Citizens Programme, priority will be given to projects that focus on World War II, the associated rise of intolerance that enabled crimes against humanity, and its consequences for the post-war architecture of Europe.

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation (Cjelina 2 – Demokratski angažman i građansko sudjelovanje)

In the current debate on the European Union in times of the economic crisis and following the European elections of May 2014, there is a need to deepen further the discussion on the future of Europe. This debate should be based on lessons learned from history and consider in particular the concrete achievements of the European Union. The debate should aim at finding ways for European citizens to reengage with the European project and further enhance democracy in the EU. Citizens should be encouraged to reflect on the kind of Europe they want and how to create a more democratic European Union, with a view to reaching a new policy consensus and stimulating new forms of civic participation whilst reinforcing and improving the existing. In such a debate the following themes and questions may be addressed:

- What does the European Union mean to the individual citizens? Which impact does the EU have on citizens' daily life and which benefits does it bring to them? What are the benefits and impact of EU citizenship? How can the rights and benefits attached to EU citizenship be better promoted and implemented?
- How can representative democracy in the EU be further enhanced and promoted?

- How can citizens express their opinion and influence the policy-making process in between elections? How can the local authorities contribute in supporting the involvement of the citizens in the policy-making processes of EU? What role can local authorities play to bring citizens closer to the EU institutions? How can the use of existing instruments be further encouraged (such as the European Citizens Initiative, the citizens' dialogues and the Europe Direct Information Centres)?
- The recent economic and financial crisis, and the resulting high levels of unemployment in many Member States, have led to increased economic and social inequalities as well as poverty, together with increased incidents of xenophobia, racism and intolerance—attitudes that were reflected in the results of the EP elections. Therefore, projects funded under the Europe for Citizens Programme could address the questions how to combat these phenomena and how to promote tolerance and the respect of the values enshrined in the EU Charter on Fundamental rights.
- This debate could also be linked to ongoing discussions on the role that the European Union can play in an increasingly globalised world. How can the European Union assume a leading role in preserving peace, developing and consolidating democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the world, notably in the context of the European Year of Development 2015?

Against this background, the 2015 annual priority of Strand 2 of the Europe for Citizens programme will be built around the debate on the future of Europe. Citizens are invited to take part in the discussions through projects or through their active engagement in organisations that participate in the Europe for Citizens Programme. The debate should not be limited to citizens already supporting the idea of the European Union, but reach out to citizens who have not been involved so far, or who reject the Union outright or put in question its achievements. By participating in the debate on the future of Europe, the Europe for Citizens Programme can contribute to the development of a shared identity for the Union's citizens that could be more engaging, especially for the younger generation, while being forward-looking and history-based at the same time.

Ovo je dio javnog dokumenta pod nazivom radni program za 2015. godinu za program Europa za građane koji je donijela Europska komisija i može se pronaći na sljedećoj mrežnoj stranici (pod nazivom Annex):

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news-events/news/09122014_wp2015_en.htm