

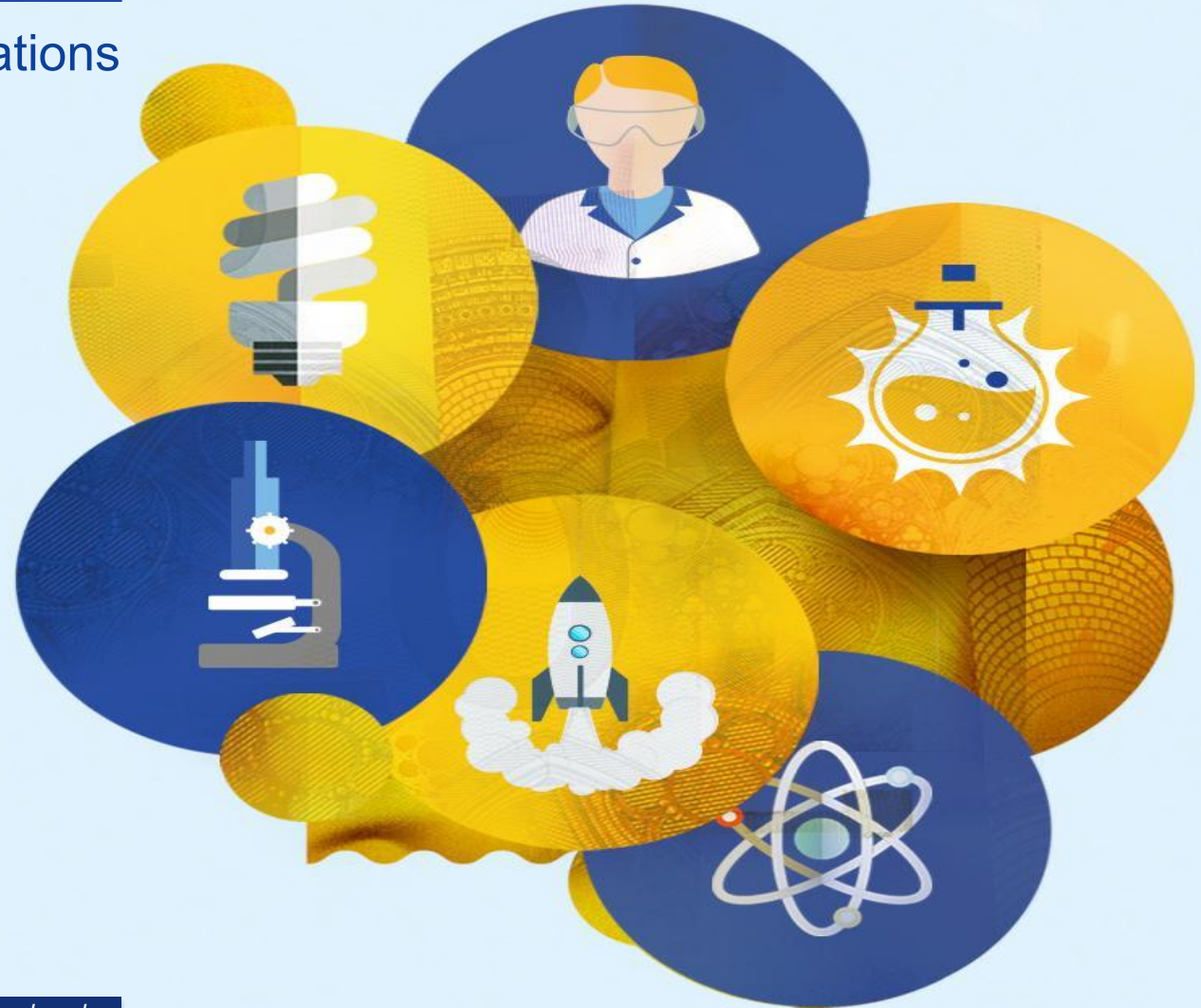
Webinar & Networking Event “Societal Transformations
in the Digital Age”

Funding opportunities and synergies (specific angle on democracy)

Francisco de la Torre
DG RTD.D.4 – Deputy HoU “Democracy and European
values”

European Commission

Research and
Innovation



EU Policy Context for democracy & governance related R&I

Commission priorities 2019 – 2024: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024_en

A new push for European democracy

Nurturing, protecting and strengthening our democracy

Promoting our European way of life

Protecting our citizens and our values



[EU Action plan on Human Rights and Democracy \(2020-2024\)](#)



[EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#)



[Initiative to strengthen the rule of law in the EU](#)



[European Democracy Action Plan \(EDAP\)](#)

The future is in your hands

Make your voice heard

[Conference on the Future of Europe](#)

Stepping up action for a Union of Equality

[A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy \(2020-2025\), LGBTIQ equality, anti-racism AP, combat antisemitism, ...](#)



[EU citizens' rights](#): electoral rights, freedom of movement, etc.

Context: Horizon Europe structure

What's in for R&I on democracy & governance?



“Cluster 2” Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

What’s in for democracy & governance in the 3 “destinations”?



DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Main source & focus!

Who: Consortia (academics, think-tanks, NGOs, public bodies, media ...)

What: Research work, networks, data collection, methods, experimentation, simulation, modelling, mobilise nat. R&I funding



SOCIAL & ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

Education, drivers for policies linked to irregular migration, socio-economic inequalities, welfare system, racial, ethnic religious equality, demography

...

HE Budget: € 2 billion (2021-2027)



CULTURAL HERITAGE & CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Role of perceptions, traditions, values, beliefs for shaping politics

Programming of Horizon Europe

Strategic Plan 2021-2024

- **Expected impact:**

Democratic governance is reinvigorated by improving the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and trustworthiness of rule-of-law based institutions and policies (see [here](#))

COUNCIL DECISION 2021/764 *establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe*

*Defines the **broad lines for the “governance and democracy” area of intervention** (see [here](#))*

Complementarity with other EU programmes and HE cluster 2 WP21-22 & other clusters

- [CERV programme, Justice programme](#)
- [Digital Europe Programme](#)
- [Global Europe](#)
- [Erasmus+](#)
- [Technical Support Instrument](#) (Reform and Recovery Facility) ...

Societal, policy or scientific developments

- *2021 Strategic foresight report: pressure on democracy and EU values (see [here](#))*
- *Transparency and democracy package (adopted in December 2021)*
- *New Media Freedom Act (2022)*
- *Conference on the Future of Europe*
- *H2020 projects ...*

On-going R&I under Horizon 2020

Almost 400 projects received more than € 800 million for R&I, data collection, developing new solutions and experimentation on

- Democratic participation
- Trust and governance
- European media landscape and europeanisation
- Disinformation, media literacy, civic education, global governance
- Rule of law and EU values
- Future of EU democracy, differentiated EU integration, deliberative democracy
- Violent extremism, populism
- Transformation of public services: citizen-centric, innovative, e-government ...

Final results by 2024 !

H2020 Project examples

- [EnTrust](#), [Peritia](#), [TiGRE](#), [COVINFORM](#) on public trust towards health and science institutions, government and the media
- [DEBUNKER](#) to better understand why misperceptions are commonplace, and how to correct them.
- [RECONNECT](#) to understand and provide solutions for strengthening the EU's legitimacy through democracy and the rule of law.
- [POPREBEL](#), [DEMOS](#), [PaCE](#) and [EUROPOPULISM](#) analyse the phenomenon of populism
- [REDEM](#) works on the participation of EU citizens in the elections & role of elections to legitimise governance and policies
- [GOVERNANCE](#) (“Democratic governance in a turbulent age”) and other programmes under the [NORFACE](#) network.
- [DEMOTEC](#), [EUARENAS](#), [ISEED](#), [EUCOMMEET](#), [PHOENIX](#), [REAL DEAL](#): experimentation with deliberative and participatory democracy

Issues addressed in HE work programme 2021-2022

(democracy and governance)

2021- Protecting and nurturing democracies (closed on 7 October 2021, 68 proposals out of 381, for a programmed budget of 158M)

- Future of liberal democracy in Europe
- Economic models and modern democracies
- Feminisms for a new age of democracy
- Democratic politics in the EU's neighbourhood
- Politics and governance in a post-pandemic world

2022 - Reshaping democracies (closed on 20 April 2022, 241 proposals out of 745, for a programmed budget of 264M)

- Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy
- Future of democracy and civic participation
- Impact of inequalities on democracy
- Education for democracy
- Evolution of political extremism & its influence on social and political dialogue
- Media for democracy – democratic media
- Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media
- Representative democracy in flux
- Global governance for a world in transition: Norms, institutions, actors

WP 21-22 update
adopted on 10 May
and calls opening
on 12 May!

Some concrete examples

2021 topic on “Politics and governance in a post-pandemic world”

A comparative and historical analysis, taking into account the varying approaches followed by the different governments, including the digitalisation of political participation and the respect for human rights and freedoms in the digital sphere, is encouraged... Study how governmental and societal responses to the pandemic, including the digitalisation of government and society, have affected trust in public authorities and among groups and individuals in society

2022 topic on “Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy”

Examination should lead to solutions protecting from the possible negative impacts of these technologies on fundamental rights and democracy. Equally, it should lead to strategies that leverage them for enhancing civic participation and democracy.

2022 topic on “The future of democracy and civic participation”

Proposals should reflect on the potential of digitalisation and new ICT for enhancing citizen participation, including for public policy making processes.

2022 topic on “The future of democracy and civic participation”

Evidence-based approaches and methods for enhancing capacities for digital citizenship, including media education, media competences, and digital literacy should be developed.

Thank you



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