

KS★EfBB

Kontaktstelle Deutschland »Europa für Bürgerinnen und Bürger« bei der Kulturpolitischen Gesellschaft e.V.

# Active European Citizenship Education in European programmes »Europe for Citizens«

Presented by Jochen Butt-Pośnik

4th of July 2018, Bielefeld

Träger:

 KULTURPOLITISCHE  
GESELLSCHAFT E.V.

Gefördert durch:

 Bundesministerium  
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen  
und Jugend

 Europa für Bürgerinnen  
und Bürger

1. What is the Active European Citizenship we speak about in the context of European programmes?
2. What are programmes in support of Active European Citizenship Education on European level?
3. What is done in the Citizenship programme “Europe for Citizens”? A look at the funding opportunities:
  1. European Remembrance
  2. Citizens’ Meetings and Networks of Towns (Town Twinning)
  3. Civil society projects
4. A view into the future
5. Questions & debate

# What is the Active European Citizenship we speak about in the context of European programmes (I/II)?



## Rights- and value-based approach:

“As a citizenship shared by all Europeans, complementing and not replacing national citizenships, **EU citizenship** embodies **shared rights and values** as well as the rich diversity of a Union of different nationalities and languages. The Lisbon Treaty and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights consolidated the rights, opportunities and safeguards of EU citizenship. These include the **freedom to travel, work and study in other EU countries, to participate in European political life and to be protected from discrimination on the basis of nationality.**”

# What is the Active European Citizenship we speak about in the context of European programmes (II/III)?



## One of many definitions:

“The term “active citizenship” means the **continuous** and **responsible** activities of citizens in **shaping their communities**. This may happen individually as well as collectively in the frame of citizens’ initiatives/NGOs, organised civil society or in the educational sector“

# What is the Active European Citizenship we speak about in the context of European programmes (III/III)?



## Competence-based approach:



“Major policy documents have recognised the **importance of promoting active citizenship** and, as a result, it has become one of the main objectives for education systems throughout Europe. Furthermore, the European reference framework on **key competences for lifelong learning** proposed that young people should be helped to develop social and civic competences, defined in terms of **knowledge, skills and attitudes**, during their school education.”

The same applies to other ages and non-formal education.

# What are “civic competences“?

- a **knowledge** of basic democratic concepts including an understanding of society and social and political movements; the European integration process and EU structures; and major social developments, both past and present.
- **skills** such as:
  - critical thinking and communication skills
  - the ability and willingness to participate constructively in the public domain, including in the decision-making process through voting
- a **sense of belonging** to society at various levels
- a **respect** for democratic values and diversity
- **support** for sustainable development

(Eurydice; Citizenship Education in Europe 2012)

# EU Programmes in support of Active Citizenship Education (I/IV)

Various initiatives encourage citizens and organisations to play an active role in the EU:

- [Europe for Citizens programme 2014-20](#)
- [Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme 2014-20](#)
- [Erasmus+](#), especially Youth in Action and Adult Education



# EU Programmes in support of Active Citizenship Education (II/IV)



- Europe for Citizens programme 2014-20
- aims to improve people's understanding of the EU, its history and diversity, to develop awareness of the rights granted by European citizenship, and to increase democratic participation at EU level.



# EU Programmes in support of Active Citizenship Education (III/IV)



- Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme 2014-20
- supports projects to promote equality and fundamental rights, increase awareness of the rights granted by EU citizenship and encourage people to play a more active role in democracy at EU level.

# EU Programmes in support of Active Citizenship Education (IV/IV)



- Erasmus+, especially Youth in Action and Adult Education
- Aims at supporting the Europe 2020 strategy, the EU Youth Strategy and promoting Europe's values in accordance of Art. 2 in the Treaty on European Union
- Supports policy such as Paris Declaration

# What else is done by the Commission to support active participation in the democratic life of the EU?



- The Commission regularly launches public consultations on initiatives it is planning, allowing every European to have their say on the issues.
- Citizens' Dialogues – these are held in cities across the EU, to listen to people's views and discuss issues people are concerned about.
- Civil Dialogue – these are discussions between the Commission and civil society organisations who specialise in various subjects.
- The European Citizens' Initiative allows you to ask the European Commission to prepare legislation. The petition must be signed by at least 1 million people from at least one quarter of the EU's countries (currently at least 7 countries).

## The Citizenship programm 2014-2020

### Objectives, political context and structure

# Objectives of the programme



- Bringing the Union closer to citizens
  - to contribute to citizens' **understanding** of the Union, its history and diversity
  - to promote **peace**, the **values of the Union** and the **well-being** of its peoples by stimulating debate, reflection and the development of networks
  - to foster **European citizenship**
  - to improve conditions for **civic and democratic participation** at Union level



**Citizens' Concern**

**Future of the EU**

**Rationale behind the European Integration process**

**Stronger participation in EU public sphere**

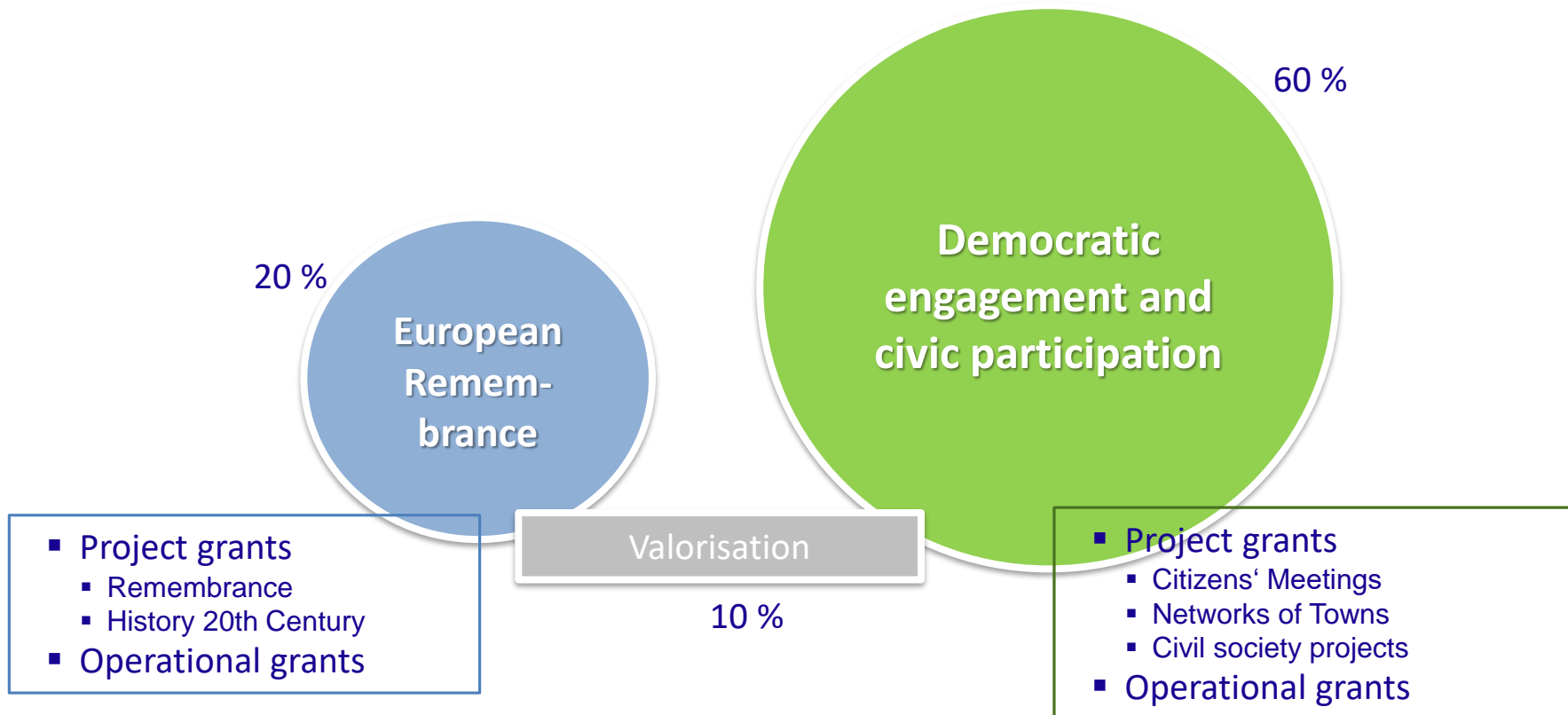
**Addressing the use of fear, populist language, prejudice and hatred**

**Civic engagement**

**Take part and make your voice heard**

(© AP)

# Structure of the programme



# Eligible for participation

---

- All **participating** organizations **and** people have to have their seat in:
  - one of the 28 EU member states
  - in Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania und Bosnia and Herzegowina
- **Non-profit** organizations and bodies:
  - Municipalities, local and regional governments
  - Associations, societies, NGOs
  - Educational, social and cultural instituts
  - Foundations, trade unions, church organizations



## Funding opportunities for projects

### Strand 1:

### European Remembrance

# European Remembrance



- Remembrance and historical turning points
- European dimension:
  - several partner organizations/municipalities
  - European subject
  - participants from other countries
- duration of the projects: max. **18 months**
- EU funding: **100.000 Euros**

## Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

# Citizens' Meetings



- Twinned towns or friendship co
- common subject of European relevance
- civic engagement and volunteering
- at least 2 partners from different countries
- at least **25** travelling participants
- EU funding: max. **25.000 Euros**

# Networks of Towns

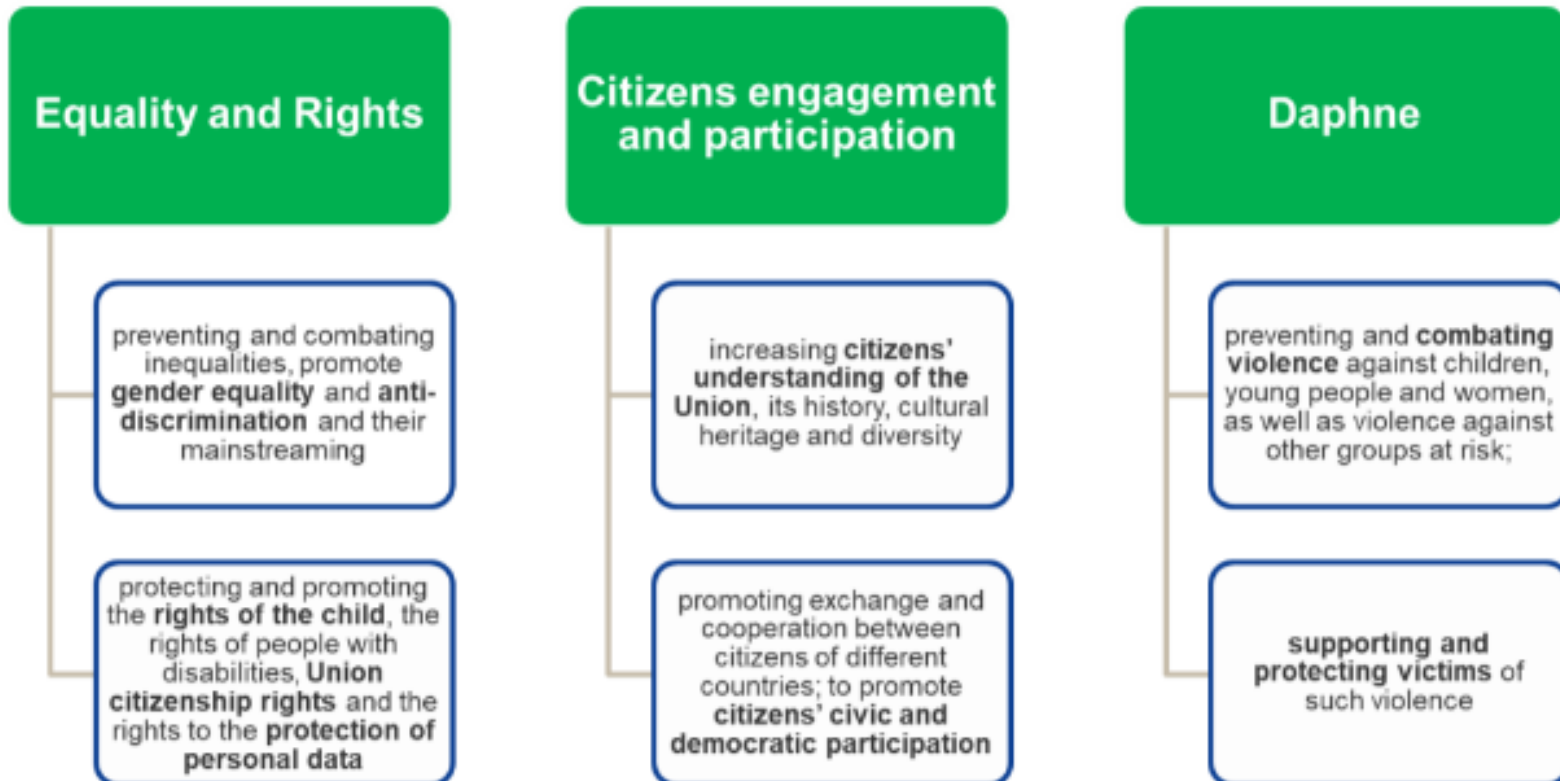


- at least **4** events
- Duration of the project: max. **24 months**
- Exchange on local governmental level
- Common subject of European relevance
- at least 4 municipalities from different countries
- at least 30% international guests
- EU funding: max. **150.000 Euros**



- Fields of action:
  - Promotion of European citizenship
  - Gathering of Opinions
  - Volunteering, civic engagement
- at least **3** partner from different countries
- Duration of the project: max. **18 months**
- EU funding: max. **150.000 Euros**

# A look into the future: EU Rights & Values Programme 2021-2027



# About us



- **Head:** Jochen Butt-Pośnik
- **Information officers:** Jeanette Franza, Jan Schmieder
- **Host:** Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft e.V.
- **Co-funded by:**  
European Commission (GD HOME) and  
German Federal Government (BMFSFJ)
- **Find us:**

[www.kontaktstelle-efbb.de](http://www.kontaktstelle-efbb.de) and Facebook



# Thank you!

- Do you have any further questions?
- Points for debate:
  - should the EU further defend a certain set of values (pro-diverse, open societies, equal opportunities, ecology...) or is this an interference in the different member states own decisions on political directions?
  - How to support active citizenship (education) in times of “shrinking space for civic societies” and right-wing populism?