

Rights and Values Programme Toolkit

Why is the Rights and Values Programme important?

- The MFF ([multiannual financial framework](#)) is the EU's long-term budget, usually covering a seven-year-period. It sets the maximum level of resources ('ceiling') for each major category of the EU spending, for the period it covers. The current MFF covers the period of 2014- 2020. Since it is nearing its end, **the EU is currently in negotiations for the following MFF from 2021-2027**. Within the MFF there are specific allocation of funds to gender equality and combating violence against women and girls, which comes under the 'Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme'.
- The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (or Rights and Values Programme) covers the EU's internal funding (within the EU) and aims at protecting and promoting rights and values, which includes supporting civil society organisations. It has three specific objectives: promoting equality and rights; promoting citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union; and fighting violence (Daphne strand). The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 specifically covers the allocation of funds to **civil society organisations working towards gender equality and combating violence against women and girls in the EU**.

The European Commission has proposed **€642 million** to be put towards Rights and Values Programme for these 7 years. However, this proposed amount is insufficient and not enough for the work that is required in Europe. Therefore, we ask:

- An increase of the **total amount** allocated to the Programme to €1.834 billion, as requested by the European Parliament. We also ask for an increase due to the clear difference in the external EU funding (outside the EU) in comparison to the internal (within the EU). Gender based violence is a European issue, so the allocated funding must reflect this!
- A specific **sub-strand on Gender equality**, within the Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand - and at least €72.6 million to be allocated towards this.
- A specific **sub-strand on Gender-based violence** within the Daphne strand- and at least at least €193.6 million to be allocated towards this strand.

We are asking for these separate sub strands in order to prevent merging into one single objective the gender equality, anti-discrimination and anti-racism objectives, as proposed by the Commission, which would undermine the visibility and the clarity of the amounts allocated to gender equality.

- Who decides on the funding!

Although the European Commission only proposed €642 to be put towards the Programme, they don't decide on the funding. The annual budgets are jointly approved by the Council of the EU (or the Council) and the European Parliament. They are the two arms of the EU Budgetary authority and are on equal footing for the annual budgetary procedure. The next EU Summit will take place on **12-13 December 2019**. The result of this discussion will automatically influence the amounts dedicated to each of the instruments of the MFF. The annual EU budget must respect the budgetary ceilings agreed under the MFF for different programmes and policies. Please click [here](#) for more information on how EU budget expenditure are approved.

We all recognise that **FGM and other forms of VAWG cannot end without organisations and**

especially grassroots community work. However, this is not possible unless they are adequately funded and provided long term financial support. As such, **this is our time to influence the budget allocations** which will directly affect the great work carried out by organisations and communities in Europe. We need to **make sure we reach out to decision makers who can influence the budget** and will follow through without our asks!

What can we do?

Letter to Permanent Representations to the EU

Since the Council of the EU represent member states, members of your national government can use their power to influence the budget. So, we have drafted a letter addressed to the governments of the EU Member States, which has been signed by 11 civil society networks working on women’s rights, gender equality and combating gender-based violence. Please share the letter with the relevant Ministries / Ministers of your government (e.g. Ministers of Finance, Justice, Social Affairs, Gender Equality) ideally by mid-November to 9th December at the latest. At Brussels level, we are sharing a similar letter with the Member States’ Permanent Representations to the EU and with key Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

Tweet members of your national Government who have a say on the budget!

1. Social Media

We encourage you to use your organisations and personal social media accounts to share widely the letter addressed to Members of your national Government. We provide you some samples below to be used on Twitter:

Dear @XXXXX, we call on the EU Member States to increase allocated funding to the Rights and Values Programme in the next #MFF & ensure adequate funding for gender equality and combating #GBV. Support and read our requests here: *****
#GBVisanEUissue

Tip: always post with a visual! (e.g. letter)

Dear @XXXXX, we invite you to support our recommendations for the Rights and Values Programme in the next #MFF. CSOs need sufficient and earmarked funding to achieve #genderequality and #endGBV! Read our letter here: *****
#GBVisanEUissue

Dear @XXXXX, we ask EU Member States to increase the total amount allocated to the Rights and Values Programme in the next #MFF. The €642 million currently proposed by the EC is insufficient for 7 years. Please read and support our letter
**** #GBVisanEUissue

Whenever you post, use these hashtags **#MFF #GBVisanEUissue #GenderEquality** and tag the Network! Try to also those who signed the letter: @ippfen, @EuropeanWomen,

@InclusionEurope, @PICUM_post, @wwp_en, @ReproRights, @COFACE_EU,
@BPW_Europe, @WAVE_europe, @social_platform.

2. Email

We encourage you to send targeted emails to members of your national Government to ask them to support our requests. Feel free to ask other organisations in your country to do the same! A sample email is provided below.

Dear **Member of the Government / Sir or Madam**,

The EU and its Member States are in the process of discussing the overall amount of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, with the next EU Summit taking place on 12-13 December. The result of this discussion will automatically influence the amounts dedicated to each of the instruments of the MFF.

Within the MFF, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme is going to be the main instrument to fund civil society organisations promoting EU Values in the EU, including gender equality and combating gender-based violence.

We call on the EU Member States to increase the overall amount allocated to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, particularly funding for civil society organisations, and to allocate sufficient and earmarked funding for gender equality and combating gender-based violence within this Programme; as asked by the European Parliament. We therefore call for:

- An increase of the **total amount** allocated to the Programme to **€1.834 billion**
- **Sufficient and earmarked funds for civil society organisations**
- **Sufficient and earmarked budget for gender equality and combating gender-based violence** within the respective strands:
 - This should be ideally done through **independent budget lines**,
 - Otherwise, through **allocated percentages**, amounting to :
 - at least **72.6 million** to the sub-strand on **Gender equality**, within the Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand;
 - at least **193.6 million** to the sub-strand on **Gender-based violence**, within the Daphne strand.

In the absence of such measures, it would be impossible for the EU to respect its commitment to gender equality and gender budgeting.

Please find attached a letter, signed by 10 civil society networks, detailing our specific asks and the reasons why these measures are necessary.

We sincerely hope that our requests will find in you a strong ally. With your help, the EU can become a place where women and men can equally thrive, free from coercion, violence and discrimination.

We thank you very much for your kind attention and please do not hesitate to contact us, should you need any further information.

Kind regards,

XX

3. Inform others

- Please inform other organisations who would be interested to share the letter or tweets.

Feel free to BE CREATIVE with your posts to get their attention!! Update us on any feedback you receive.