

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002786/24
to the Commission**

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(5 December 2024)

Subject: EU funding for World Youth Alliance

In October 2024, openDemocracy published material on the non-governmental organisation World Youth Alliance (WYA), which has received a total of EUR 1.2 million in funding from the Commission over the past 10 years. In 2023, WYA was awarded EUR 400 000 for a reproductive health education project for girls and it subsequently launched the FEMM application, which has been criticised for misleading young women about their reproductive health.

1. Could the Commission clarify its position on the recent reports regarding EUR 1.2 million in EU funding for the WYA, an organisation allegedly disseminating information on sexual and reproductive rights that is fundamentally at odds with EU values?
2. Will the Commission commit to reviewing and potentially halting EU funding for organisations that oppose reproductive freedom?
3. Given the reported risks of the WYA misleading young people, will the Commission support the public release of the training materials used in the Women's Health Goes Digital project, which received EUR 400 000 in EU funding, in order to ensure transparency and accountability?

Submitted: 5.12.2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission

(14 February 2025)

The Commission is committed to ensuring that persons and entities considered unreliable because of involvement in criminal, unethical practices or activities incompatible with European values do not receive EU financial support.

Beneficiaries of Erasmus+ must uphold legal provisions protecting EU values. Mechanisms framed by the EU Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾ and relevant agreements concluded with recipients of EU funds have been put in place to safeguard and monitor the proper use of these funds.

If there is evidence that a beneficiary receiving EU funds is in breach of the applicable rules, the Commission will take appropriate measures, including reinforced monitoring, audits, termination of the grant agreement and recovery of funds, to protect the integrity and proper use of the funds.

Following allegations of disinformation by the World Youth Alliance Europe on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the Commission is looking into the matter together with the European Education and Culture Executive Agency, and assessing whether there has been a breach of the grant agreement provisions for non-compliance with European values or grave professional misconduct.

Moreover, the Commission has deployed a set of monitoring and supervision activities such as regular audits to ensure efficient and effective programme implementation.

The ongoing 'Women's Health Goes Digital' project ⁽²⁾ is thoroughly monitored as all other projects co-funded under the Erasmus+ programme, and its future deliverables will need to be approved before they can be made public.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.

⁽²⁾ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/101134732>