

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001638/25
to the Commission
Harald Vilimsky (P/E)
(23 April 2025)**

Subject: Islam-related projects funded by the EU since 2018

Did the evaluation of the Islam-related research or cultural projects funded since 2018 through Horizon Europe, the European Research Council, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund or other EU funds provide any substantive justification for explicitly portraying Islam as a shaper of identity in Europe and beneficial to European society?

Submitted: 23.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(23 September 2025)**

The Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾ (FR) sets out rules for the award of funds to entities, based on objective criteria. In addition, the Commission carries out rigorous selection processes, including several different checks on grant beneficiaries based on objective criteria.

Horizon Europe, Creative Europe and the European Research Council's funding is not linked to any religious considerations. Funding is allocated solely on the basis of scientific merit and the quality of the proposal.

Horizon Europe funding is assigned on the basis of a rigorous assessment by independent evaluators against three main criteria: Excellence, Impact, and Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation. These evaluations ensure that projects are selected based on their scientific and societal value, irrespective of any religious, political, or ideological affiliation.

The selection of Creative Europe projects for funding is also based on a rigorous and independent assessment using criteria such as Relevance, Quality of content and activities, Project management and Dissemination without consideration of any religious background.

The European Research Council (ERC) likewise guarantees that all funded projects undergo strict and independent scientific and ethics evaluations. These assessments, carried out by panels of independent experts, prioritise scientific excellence and compliance with EU legislation and ethical standards, with no consideration given to the religious beliefs or affiliations of applicants or institutions.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.