

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001639/25
to the Commission
Harald Vilimsky (PFE)
(23 April 2025)**

Subject: Assessment of selected Islam-related projects

1. How was the University of Amsterdam's project 'White Islam: A New Religion for Europeans' justified and assessed as regards its content?
2. What objectives were pursued by the University of Leiden's project 'Entangled Universals of Transnational Islamic Charity', which is receiving EUR 1.99 million in funding, and by the University of Amsterdam's project 'Eco-Islam in Indonesia', which runs until 2029 and is receiving EUR 2 million in funding?
3. On what content-related basis were Istanbul Bilgi University's projects 'Nativism, Islamophobia and Islamism in the Age of Populism' and 'Choosing Islamic Conservatism' each supported with EUR 2.27 million in funding?

Submitted: 23.4.2025

**Question for written answer E-001640/25
to the Commission
Harald Vilimsky (PFE)
(23 April 2025)**

Subject: Impact and target groups of Islam-related EU projects

1. What specific groups (e.g. young people, teachers, public officials, the media) have been targeted by or involved in these projects?
2. Have either the Commission or external evaluators assessed the impact these projects are having on societal debates or political opinion?

Submitted: 23.4.2025

**Joint answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(19 August 2025)**

The project 'White Islam: A New Religion for Europeans' ⁽¹⁾, funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon Europe ⁽²⁾, is conducted at the University of Amsterdam with part of the research at George Washington University. It studies the Murabitun World Movement, a transnational network of European converts to Islam. The proposal was assessed based on scientific excellence by independent experts.

The University of Leiden's 'Entangled Universals of Transnational Islamic Charity' ⁽³⁾ project analyses the influence of Islamic charities on poverty alleviation, while the University of Amsterdam's 'EcoIslam in Indonesia' ⁽⁴⁾ examines Islamic impacts on sustainability in Indonesia and its policy effects. Funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under Horizon Europe following independent peer review evaluation based on scientific excellence, both projects aim to address global challenges.

Istanbul Bilgi University and Oxford University received ERC funds under Horizon 2020 for 'Nativism, Islamophobia and Islamism in the Age of Populism' ⁽⁵⁾, which explores the role of nativism and Islamism in populism, and 'Choosing Islamic Conservatism' ⁽⁶⁾, which studies Muslim youth's embrace of conservatism in Europe and the UK and its effects on social cohesion. These projects, selected only based on scientific excellence, strive to address societal challenges through innovative research.

MSCA and ERC support doctoral education, postdoctoral training of researchers and investigator-driven research across all fields of knowledge. Projects are monitored for scientific and financial progress, adherence to EU laws, and ethical standards. The granting authorities remain uninvolved in specific matters pertaining to the content or implementation strategies of the projects, as long as the activities carried out are in line with the award decision and the signed grant agreement, thus preserving academic freedom and scientific excellence ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽¹⁾ For an overview of the project's results, please consult <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/892075>.

⁽²⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁽³⁾ For an overview of the project's results, please consult <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101124597>.

⁽⁴⁾ For an overview of the project's results, please consult <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101125011>.

⁽⁵⁾ For an overview of the project's results, please consult <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/785934>.

⁽⁶⁾ For an overview of the project's results, please consult <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101019016>.

⁽⁷⁾ See Article 13 of the CFREU: 'The arts and scientific research shall be free of constraint. Academic freedom shall be respected'. Available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf.

The ERC has funded since 2007 more than 17 000 projects and over 10 000 researchers, across Physical Sciences and Engineering, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities ⁽⁸⁾. This led to over 2 200 patents and other Intellectual Property Rights applications. More than 200 000 articles were published in scientific journals and the ERC grantees have been awarded with 14 Nobel Prizes, 7 Fields Medals, 11 Wolf Prizes and dozens of important prizes.

⁽⁸⁾ Within the social sciences and humanities projects which represent around a fourth of ERC grants, topics span an extensive range of disciplines, including Economics and Finance, Law and Political Science, Sociology, Psychology and Linguistics, Literature and Philosophy, History and Archaeology, Geography and Environmental studies, Anthropology, Arts and Cultural and Religious Studies — the category in which fall the mentioned projects.