

EN
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Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission's work is guided by the Treaties, which establish that the EU is founded on common values such as democracy, equality, and respect for human rights, and require the EU to combat discrimination.

The Commission is also committed to academic freedom, freedom of scientific research, and excellence in universities. It recognises the importance of an environment where diverse ideas thrive, and where academic freedom is respected and protected.

Horizon Europe Work programmes are shaped through inclusive consultation with Member States, stakeholders, and experts, and are aligned with the Horizon Europe objectives spelled out in Regulation 2021/695¹ and the Specific Programme Council decision² where the role of research and innovation in social sciences and humanities is explicitly recognised as fundamental for combatting inequalities, unemployment, marginalisation, discrimination and radicalisation, guaranteeing human rights, fostering cultural diversity and European cultural heritage, among others. This ensures pluralism and shields EU funding from ideological agendas.

Project selection and evaluation is based on independent expert evaluation. Strict eligibility and exclusion criteria ensure that only organisations aligned with EU values can access funding, without targeting any belief system.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021, OJ L 170, 12.5.2021.

² Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021, OJ L 167I, 12.5.2021.