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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.12.2025)

The study referred to was commissioned by the European Parliament and reflects solely the views of its authors. It does not represent the position of the Commission.

The European Democracy Shield, presented by the Commission on 12 November 2025, sets out a strategic and long-term approach to reinforcing democratic resilience across the EU. Its purpose is to ensure that citizens, democratic institutions and free and independent media can operate freely and securely in a trusted information environment. The European Democracy Shield does not alter the institutional balance or confer new supervisory powers on the Commission.

The European Democracy Shield was prepared through wide consultations with Member States, the European Parliament, EU bodies, independent authorities, media stakeholders, civil society, academia and the wider public, including a public consultation and a Eurobarometer survey. It reflects broad input and is grounded in EU values and the rights guaranteed by the Charter.

The European Democracy Shield does not restrict political pluralism; on the contrary, its objective is to strengthen the conditions enabling citizens and political actors to form and express their views freely and participate in democratic life.

Participation of universities in EU programmes such as Horizon Europe¹, Erasmus+² including its Jean Monnet actions,³ follow competitive grant award procedures based on an independent expert evaluation of the proposals.

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

² <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

³ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/jean-monnet-actions>