

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004308/25
to the Commission**

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(3 November 2025)

Subject: Abortion Figurations project

In 2022, the Commission started to fund the Abortion Figurations project, with funding running up to 2027 ⁽¹⁾. This project by Warsaw University aims to analyse different forms of communication employed to change abortion laws and in particular scrutinise the communication processes that use human rights as arguments to change abortion laws. This project coincides with a growing international call to categorise abortion as a human right, evoked by pro-abortion activists. Given that abortion laws fall within the competence of the individual Member States, the following questions arise:

1. What justification exists for the Commission's authorising and/or funding of this project and how does the Commission ensure that this project fully respects the principle of subsidiarity and sovereignty of the Member States?
2. What are the intended applications, by the Commission and/or its (research) partners, of the project's findings?
3. In what ways will the project outcome be used to apply pressure on Member States into adopting more liberal abortion laws or to circumvent the EU treaties?

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**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(10 December 2025)**

This project ⁽¹⁾ is funded by a European Research Council (ERC) grant through Horizon Europe ⁽²⁾, a programme ensuring Europe produces world-class scientific results.

Since 2007, the ERC has funded over 17 000 projects and over 14 000 researchers ⁽³⁾ in various fields, leading to more than 2 400 patents and 220 000 articles in scientific journals. It is worth mentioning that ERC grantees have earned 15 Nobel Prizes, 7 Fields Medals, 12 Wolf Prizes, and other prestigious awards.

Selected by independent scholars through rigorous evaluation procedure based on scientific excellence, the project explores human rights aspects in abortion law debates. It analyses how human rights arguments gain traction through legal, social, and linguistic processes, contributing to academic debate on human rights interpretation and implementation across cultural and regional contexts.

The project focuses on specific countries in Africa (Mozambique, Senegal), Europe (Poland, Ireland) and Latin America (Argentina, and Honduras) and involves advocacy groups, policymakers, and legal experts, targeting scholarly circles while addressing civil society and stakeholders.

The principle of subsidiarity is respected insofar as this project is funded under the Horizon Europe programme, whose main objective is to maximise the Union added value and impact in research and innovation, while focusing on objectives and activities that cannot be efficiently realised by the Member States acting alone.

This may take the form of funding academic research and debate, which differs essentially from adopting legislation or shaping policies.

¹ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101044421>.

¹ For an overview of the project's results, please consult <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101044421>.

² Horizon Europe is the 9th Framework programme for Research and Innovation: https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en.

³ Principal Investigators.

All ERC-funded projects are closely monitored to ensure progress and compliance with relevant EU legislation and ethical principles ⁽⁴⁾.

⁴ This includes the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols.