

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004920/25
to the Commission
Marcin Sypniewski (ESN)
(11 December 2025)**

Subject: Financing of organisations involved in ‘My Voice, My Choice’

There are indications that organisations supporting the European citizens’ initiative ‘My Voice, My Choice’ are receiving funding from EU civil society funds. This initiative, which finances cross-border abortion procedures, concerns a highly sensitive issue that is the exclusive competence of Member States. This raises questions as to the compatibility of this spending with the principle of political neutrality and respect for national law.

Taking the above into consideration:

1. Does the Commission have any information on whether EU funds may have been directly or indirectly used for actions promoting this initiative?
2. Has the Commission audited or is it planning to audit the use of EU funds by these entities in the context of compliance with the principles of transparency, political neutrality and compliance with the goals of EU programmes?

Submitted: 11.12.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(20 February 2026)**

The entity Zavod Raziskovalni inštitut 8. marec is mentioned under the European Citizens' Initiative web page ⁽¹⁾ as a funder of the initiative ‘My Voice, My Choice’.

This entity is a beneficiary of the grant Back to the Roots (BttR) ⁽²⁾ aiming at strengthening democratic resilience, promoting reconciliation, and fostering active civic participation among youth and civil society across the Western Balkans within the context of EU integration.

The BttR project is an action grant, and the funding is provided to implement the project described in the agreement. The costs of implementing the action are set in a budget that is part of the grant agreement.

The grant is paid to the beneficiaries only if the action is implemented in line with the agreement and the deliverables approved by the Commission.

There is no possibility to use the funding for purposes other than the ones listed in the agreement and no activities for the promotion of the initiative ‘My Voice, My Choice’ are foreseen in the grant agreement.

The funding is provided in line with the Financial Regulation ⁽³⁾ and the principles of equal treatment and transparency. Proposals are evaluated against award criteria such as quality and relevance to make sure that the funding is used in compliance with the goals of the programmes.

During implementation, grants are closely monitored to ensure that they are implemented according to the grant agreement. According to the model grant agreement, projects may be audited up to five years after final payment.

Every year a sample of grants is selected for audit to make sure that grants are implemented in accordance with the rules. In case there are suspicions of an irregular use of EU funding, the European Anti-Fraud Office is the competent EU Office for the protection of the EU budget.

⁽¹⁾ https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2024/000004_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43251589/101253246/CERV?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortBy=relevance&keywords=disinformation&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.