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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.4.2026)

The award of EU funding is the outcome of a highly competitive and transparent process under which proposals submitted after open calls for proposals are evaluated based on pre-announced award criteria. The award criteria used for evaluating proposals under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV)¹ are relevance, quality and impact, and they have remained unchanged since the launch of the programme and are applied consistently to all applicants.

The selection and award of proposals are under the direct responsibility of the Evaluation Committee made of European Education and Culture Executive Agency's and Commission's staff. The Committee may be assisted by independent external experts. Before starting their work, experts are thoroughly briefed on evaluation procedures, the award criteria of the relevant call for proposals and the terms of their contracts. The list of experts is published on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal² in the year following the evaluation, in line with the Financial Regulation³.

All applicants are informed about the results of their proposal's evaluation and provided with feedback that can serve to improve future applications. As for all the calls, applicants have the possibility to appeal the results of the evaluation. Unsuccessful applicants can apply for other funding opportunities under the CERV programme or, where relevant, other programmes such as Horizon Europe⁴ or Erasmus+⁵. Funding opportunities are published on the Funding and Tender portal⁶.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/692 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 1); ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/692/oj>.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents?programmePeriod=2021-2027&frameworkProgramme=43251447>.

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); ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (Text with EEA relevance); ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj>.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (Text with EEA relevance); ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/817/oj>.

⁶ EU Funding and Tenders Portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.