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E-000437/2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.4.2026)

The ECPS (European Centre for Populism Studies) is the beneficiary of one running grant for the implementation of the project Uncovering Neglected Truths and Outlining Legacies of Decolonization (UNTOLD Europe¹) awarded under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)². The funding earmarked for ECPS amounts to EUR 18 500. ECPS is a beneficiary of the grant for the completed project Unveiling emotional dimensions of politics to foster European democracy (ENCODE³) awarded under the Horizon Europe programme⁴. Its share of funding amounts to EUR 269 125.

The objectives of EU funding are defined in programmes such as the CERV Programme, which are adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. The programmes are implemented through work programmes approved by representatives of the Member States and open calls for proposals. Proposals are evaluated, based on pre-announced selection and award criteria along the rules and principles set in the Financial Regulation⁵. The award of a grant is the outcome of a highly competitive process at the end of which the highest ranked proposals that best align with the objectives of the programmes are selected for funding.

The Commission is fully in line with all the transparency requirements as they were written by the co-legislators. Information about the beneficiaries of funding is published on the Financial and Transparency System and project related information is published on the Funding and Tenders portal⁶. The Commission refers to its replies to the Special Report 35/2018 of the European Court of Auditors (ECA)⁷. The Commission accepted three out of

¹ Further details on the project are publicly available on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43251589/101196163/CERV?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortBy=es_SortDate&keywords=101196163&frameworkProgramme=43251589.

² 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>.

³ Further details on the project are publicly available on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43108390/101132698/HORIZON?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortBy=es_SortDate&keywords=101132698.

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; ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj>.

⁵ 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>.

⁶ EU Funding & Tenders Portal https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-results?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortBy=es_SortDate.

⁷ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR18_35/SR_NGO_FUNDING_EN.pdf, pp. 38-48.

four ECA's recommendations and, in 2021, the Court assessed that those recommendations were fully and timely implemented⁸.

⁸ Report of the European Court of Auditors on the performance of the EU budget – Status at the end of 2021, p. 122 https://www.eca.europa.eu/lists/ecadocuments/annualreport-performance-2021/annualreport-performance-2021_en.pdf.