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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.8.2026)

The Commission supports citizen engagement and democratic participation through several EU programmes. Under Horizon Europe¹, support includes citizen participation in research and innovation, digital democracy, AI-enabled deliberation tools and 2026-2027 actions on citizen science, youth engagement and scientific literacy. The Commission cooperates with European Research Area (ERA) countries and stakeholders to implement the 2025-2027 ERA policy agenda action on enhancing trust in science through citizen participation and science communication.

The Development Education and Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR) programme² promotes awareness of global development issues and active engagement for justice, human rights, democracy, gender equality and sustainable development.

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme³ supports citizens' engagement, democratic participation and civil society. Creative Europe and Digital Europe strengthen media literacy and resilience against disinformation.

The European Democracy Shield⁴ supports a European civic tech hub, pilot projects on civic tech and participatory digital tools, national authorities on citizen participation and strengthened media literacy.

Under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, the proposed AgoraEU programme, notably the CERV+ strand, would support democratic participation, citizens' engagement, civil society, media freedom and democratic resilience, including through the European Democracy Shield. The proposed Horizon Europe programme would support research and innovation on democratic values, civic engagement, citizen involvement in research and innovation and the integrity of the information and media space.

¹ <https://horizon-eu.eu/>.

² <https://dearprogramme.eu/>.

³ https://citizens-equality-rights-values.campaign.europa.eu/index_en.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0791>.