HORIZON EUROPE WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2022

CLUSTER 2 ‘Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society’

Draft version of 03.06.2020

Contents

[**Introduction** 4](#_Toc42072844)

[**Destination 1 – Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance** 5](#_Toc42072845)

[**Call 1 – Protecting and nurturing democracies (2021)** 6](#_Toc42072846)

[**Representative democracy in flux** 6](#_Toc42072847)

[**The impact of inequalities on democracy** 7](#_Toc42072848)

[**Liberalism and democracy. A new theory for changed realities.** 8](#_Toc42072849)

[**Economic models and modern democracies** 9](#_Toc42072850)

[**Feminisms for a New Age of Democracy** 10](#_Toc42072851)

[**Global governance for a world in transition: Norms, institutions, actors** 11](#_Toc42072852)

[**Democratic politics in the EU’s neighbourhood** 12](#_Toc42072853)

[[COVID-19 topic] **Politics and governance in a post-pandemic world** 14](#_Toc42072854)

[**Call 2 – Reshaping democracies (2022)** 16](#_Toc42072855)

[**Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy** 16](#_Toc42072856)

[**The future of democracy and civic participation** 17](#_Toc42072857)

[**Education for democracy.** 18](#_Toc42072858)

[**Evolution of political extremism and its influence on contemporary social and political dialogue** 19](#_Toc42072859)

[**Media for democracy – democratic media** 20](#_Toc42072860)

[**Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media.** 21](#_Toc42072861)

[**Destination 2 – Innovative Research on the European Cultural Heritage and the Cultural and Creative Industries** 23](#_Toc42072862)

[**Call 1 – Research and Innovation on Cultural Heritage and CCIs (2021)** 26](#_Toc42072863)

[**Green Technologies and Materials for Cultural Heritage** 26](#_Toc42072864)

[**Protection of artefacts and cultural goods from anthropogenic threats** 27](#_Toc42072865)

[**Effects of climate change and natural hazards on Cultural Heritage and remediation** 28](#_Toc42072866)

[**New ways of participatory management and sustainable financing of cultural institutions and museums** 29](#_Toc42072867)

[**Games and culture shaping our society** 30](#_Toc42072868)

[**Coordination of European Cultural Heritage research and innovation among Member States** 31](#_Toc42072869)

[**Cultural and Creative Industries as a driver of innovation and competitiveness** 32](#_Toc42072870)

[**Preserving and enhancing cultural heritage with advanced digital technologies** 34](#_Toc42072871)

[**Call 2 – Research and Innovation on Cultural Heritage and CCIs (2022)** 36](#_Toc42072872)

[**Safeguarding endangered languages in Europe** 36](#_Toc42072873)

[**Europe’s Cultural Heritage and Arts - promoting our values at home and abroad** 37](#_Toc42072874)

[**The role of perceptions, formed by traditions, values and beliefs, in shaping European societies and politics in the 21st century** 38](#_Toc42072875)

[**Traditional crafts for the future: a new approach** 39](#_Toc42072876)

[**Towards a competitive, fair and sustainable European music ecosystem** 40](#_Toc42072877)

[**Increase the potential of the international competition of the European film making industry** 42](#_Toc42072878)

[**Destination 3 – Innovative Research on Social and Economic Transformations** 44](#_Toc42072879)

[**Call 1: Inclusiveness in times of change (2021)** 45](#_Toc42072880)

[**Estimates and conditions of irregular migrants in Europe** 45](#_Toc42072881)

[**Providing support in a changing world of work and social protection** 47](#_Toc42072882)

[**Socio Economic effects of ageing societies** 48](#_Toc42072883)

[**Determining key drivers of inequality trends** 49](#_Toc42072884)

[**Addressing poor learning outcomes in basic skills and early school leaving at national, regional and local level in Europe** 50](#_Toc42072885)

[**Integration of emerging new technologies into education and training** 51](#_Toc42072886)

[**Towards a new normal? Employment and social impacts of changing supply chains and declining trade intensities** 52](#_Toc42072887)

[**Call 2: A sustainable future for Europe (2022)** 53](#_Toc42072888)

[**Public policies and indicators for social well-being and sustainable development** 53](#_Toc42072889)

[**The impact of spatial mobility on EU demographics, society and labour market** 54](#_Toc42072890)

[**Return and readmission of irregular migrants in the EU** 55](#_Toc42072891)

[**Decision-making processes of (aspiring) migrants** 56](#_Toc42072892)

[**Gender and social, economic and cultural empowerment** 57](#_Toc42072893)

[**Inclusive labour market with regard to disability, age, gender and racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religious belief and its impact on inequalities** 59](#_Toc42072894)

[**Conditions for successful development of firm-, occupation- and sector-specific skills** 60](#_Toc42072895)

**Introduction**

Cluster 2, ‘Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society’ aims to meet EU goals and priorities on enhancing democratic governance and citizens participation, on the safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage, and to respond to multifaceted social, economic, technological and cultural transformations. Activities will contribute to expanding civic engagement, boosting transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and legitimacy of governance, improving levels of trust and tackling political extremism. Activities within the Cluster will also promote better access and engagement with cultural heritage and improve its protection, enhancement and restoration. Research and innovation will support sustainable growth and job creation through contributing to a European industrial policy for the cultural and creative industries. At the same time, actions will help tackle social, economic and political inequalities, support human capital development and contribute to a comprehensive European strategy for inclusive growth. This also involves understanding and responding to the impacts of technological advancements and economic interconnectedness with a view to social resilience. Finally, the Cluster will support EU migration and mobility policies, both internal and external, while aiming to promote integration.

**Destination 1 – Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance**

Democracies are more fragile and more vulnerable than in the past. The Freedom in the World Report (2019) shows that democracy across the globe faces its most serious crisis in decades. At the same time, various European surveys show declining levels of trust to the political institutions of democracy.[[1]](#footnote-1) In terms of legitimacy, there are signs of a potential shift from governance based on expertise, multilateralism, and consensual policymaking towards majoritarianism, unilateralism, nationalism, and polarization. Relevant research can support policy action in favour of democracy, its stability, and its further development with a view to enhancing representation, participation, openness, pluralism, tolerance, the effectiveness of public policy, non-discrimination, the protection of fundamental rights and the rule of law.

Expected impacts:

Proposals for topics under this Destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to the following expected impacts of the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan:

- Democratic governance is re-invigorated by improving the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of democratic institutions, safeguarding fundamental rights and the rule of law, and tackling multidimensional threats.

- Trust in democracy is restored through the expansion of active and inclusive citizenship.

The implementation of the research activities of the destination will assist in the re-invigoration and modernisation of democratic governance. The aim is to develop innovations, policies and institutions that expand political participation, social dialogue, civic engagement and gender equality as well as disability inclusiveness. Activities will also enhance transparency, the effectiveness of public policy-making, accountability and legitimacy and will equally improve trust in democratic institutions, safeguard liberties and the rule of law, and protect democracy from multidimensional threats. Rich historical perspectives will set the frame for soundly understanding present developments and the help the mapping of future pathways. In the medium to long term, the knowledge, data, scientifically robust recommendations and innovations generated will enhance decision making on all aspects relevant to democratic governance.

The following calls in this Work Programme contribute to this Destination:

**Call 1 – Protecting and nurturing democracies (2021)**

**Representative democracy in flux**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Comprehensive evidence on the mid to long-term impact of current political developments on representative democracies.
* Develop policy recommendations, toolkits, narratives and methodologies for enhancing trust to political institutions, and boosting transparency, representativeness, and inclusiveness of representative systems.

Scope:

The last decades have witnessed significant changes in the electoral behaviour of citizens. Turnout has been steadily declining while European research and statistical data show that there is more electoral volatility, together with an increase in radicalisation of voter attitudes and greater polarisation. From 1994 to 2017 (according to Eurobarometer data) trust in parliaments, parties and governments declined significantly. On the other hand, paradoxically, non-elected institutions (e.g. military, police, judiciary) enjoyed high and stable levels of trust, higher than the democratically elected ones. In general, the political landscape of representative democracies has been marked by the emergence of new political forces and discourses, new voting preferences as societies become more connected and individualistic, the establishment of new political cleavages and the erosion of many of the political identities and certainties of the past.

This apparent state of flux brings multiple challenges but also opportunities for the future of our democracies.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Take stock of long-term developments in terms of trust in the political institutions of representative democracy – parties, executives, parliaments, institutionalised social dialogue etc. Comparative approaches at European level must be developed.
* Relate changing voting attitudes at the individual level to wider political and cultural discourses and the emergence of new movements and parties. Analyse key drivers of such changes, taking into consideration socio-economic variables, as well as cultural variables linked to identity, security and migration.
* Analyse the new political cleavages that shape current political phenomena and trace their long-term impacts (negative and positive) on democratic systems.
* Provide new approaches in terms of understanding the function of political parties in the context of intense digitalisation, individualism etc.
* Establish the barriers and opportunities to re-invigorating and enhancing representative democratic systems with a view to active engagement and inclusion.

**The impact of inequalities on democracy**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Evidence base for the long-term impact of various inequalities (socio-economic, gender, disability, spatial, ethnic etc.) on political participation, democratic quality and stability.
* Policies and strategies for tackling inequalities and boosting trust.

Scope:

An erosion in living standards experienced by certain social categories following the financial and social crisis and having persisted during recovery (and likely to worsen following the coronavirus pandemic), together with the stalling of social mobility and the impact of increasing inequalities have reinforced sentiments of public distrust towards the political institutions of democracy. European research suggests that a shrinking of private and public resources due to economic downturns can lead to popular protest and disenchantment from politics, and even to a general deterioration of the rule of law. Moreover, persistent inequality undermines the ability of the more vulnerable and excluded to participate meaningfully in the political process. Social, economic or gender inequalities can translate into political inequalities, especially if different areas of inequality (e.g. in economic opportunities, access to education, health and social security) are overlapping. There is a danger of having a long-lasting fissure in the egalitarian ethos of democracy produced by the almost permanent political exclusion of wide groups of citizens.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Take stock of long-term trends in inequalities (socio-economic, gender, spatial, ethnic, etc.). Relate them to levels of political trust in European societies and the emergence of protest movements, populist discourses, etc.
* Establish what policy action can enhance political engagement amongst the socially excluded and vulnerable.
* Relate different kinds of policies of economic redistribution to levels of democratic legitimacy and trust among different social groups.
* Relate the structure of political representation (e.g. how much are governments, parties, parliaments etc. representative of different social categories; the discourses of major political agents and their social relevance) to levels of political engagement and democratic legitimacy.

**Liberalism and democracy. A new theory for changed realities.**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Produce theoretically and empirically robust visions for the future of liberal democratic institutions
* Develop corresponding supporting discourses and narratives.

Scope:

European societies are traversed by a multiplicity of identities, attitudes and cultural backgrounds. In the face of increasing complexity, certain political forces have promoted a vision of closeness and hierarchical control and order. Extreme populist discourses have promoted strict majoritarian and nativist interpretations of democratic governance, while challenging key tenets of liberal democracy like the protection of the rule of law, the separation of powers, women’s rights, protections for minorities etc. Such narratives are creating public ambivalence over pluralism and fundamental rights. They also crystallise in debates about borders and border control, where a tension emerges between the liberal nature of states and the actions called for. Together with the strengthening of the powers of executives, these developments could potentially undermine the stability of democracies. A philosophic, social and political reflection is needed on the foundations of liberal democratic governance.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Examine the internal (within nation-states) and external challenges to liberal democracy and the philosophical discourses that underpin them. Illustrate how such discourses understand political subjects and the ordering of modern societies and institutions. How do these counter basic tenets of liberal democracy?
* Analyse long-term trends in the functioning of key elements of European liberal democracies (fundamental rights of individual, the rule of law, pluralism, separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary and the media, protection of minorities etc.) and their public legitimacy. Relate these to the impacts of major political and economic shifts like the Great Recession, “the war on terror”, mass migration, the recent pandemic, etc.
* Provide robust theoretical reflections on how political liberalism can be updated in order to take on the challenges of populist discourses. Show the corresponding implications for the institutions of democratic governance.

**Economic models and modern democracies**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Theoretically and empirically robust recommendations aiming to instil greater democratic accountability and inclusion in economic processes.

Scope:

Since WWII, formidable progress has been made in Europe in terms of economic development, improving life conditions allowing (and enabling) the consolidation of liberal democracies. However, in recent decades the intensification of economic globalisation, market de-regulation and the financialisation of economies have posed new challenges to democratic governance. Global corporatized and financialised capitalism has created dynamic economic systems that produce material wealth but at the same time pose challenges to social inclusion, inequalities and welfare.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Study the interrelationship between politics and economics in modern European democracies. In this vein, comparatively analyse the role of various democratic institutional configurations and actors in mitigating the negative effects of economic competition, while promoting inclusive growth.
* How can democratic politics exercise control over the economic logic? How can re-embedding democracy and (the various forms of) capitalism be envisaged?
* How do corporations impact the democratic process? Through what channels (political parties, media) and what is the real impact of corporate lobbying?
* Study trends in capital accumulation, especially in new digital industries, and the impacts they have on the functioning of democracies. Examine legal, organisational and financial innovations that could make global oriented, high-performing corporations more inclusive, accountable and conducive to social fairness, while preserving their innovation and flexibility.
* What would be the adequate level of democratic governance over the economy (local, national, supranational)? What kind of institutional mechanisms could guide the interaction of the various governance levels?

**Feminisms for a New Age of Democracy**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Promote gender equality theoretically and practically and thus support the quality of democratic governance in more inclusive European societies.
* Understand how feminism and gender are used in extreme populist discourses, and counter gender-equality repressive strategies and policies.

Scope:

Gender equality is a fundamental value of the European Union and lies at the core of European democracy. Yet, much remains to be done to ensure true gender equality in our democratic processes. Recent developments, such as the #MeToo movement, have given new impetus to feminist discourses and politics. At the same time however, there has been a political backlash against feminism, centred around traditionalist, masculinist and authoritarian political discourses. Research is needed on the theory and practice of feminism(s), in the face of a changed and changing reality in Europe and beyond.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Examine the contribution of modern theoretical frameworks of feminist thought and gender analysis – including, e.g., care ethics, ecofeminism, intersectional theory and inclusive feminism –, as well as feminist activism and political practices, to the renewal of fundamental political concepts like equality, identity, order, security, individual rights, participation, dialogue etc. in modern democratic contexts across Europe.
* Investigate the strategies and effects of anti-gender and anti-feminist mobilisations in Europe – including, e.g., the use of traditional and social media, online hate speech and harassment, as well as restrictions to academic freedom – and their connections with the positioning of populist discourses and political actors as well as traditionalist religious movements.
* Develop evidence-based approaches and methods to effectively ‘engender’ democracy and spaces of democratic governance, taking into account the interconnection of gender, class, race etc. in European societies (intersectionality), and counteract anti-gender equality discursive strategies and backlash tactics.

**Global governance for a world in transition: Norms, institutions, actors**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Support EU’s role in leading the defence and transformation of multilateralism by identifying and analysing policy avenues for a more robust, democratic and effective global governance.
* Develop policy recommendations, toolboxes, narratives and methodologies for supporting action towards transnational democracy.

Scope:

Political developments across the world over the last years have posed serious challenges to global multilateralism and its aspirations for global order, peace and cooperation. Even if the need for international collective action is probably larger than it has ever been (climate and digital transitions, rise of inequalities, ageing and disabilities, migrations, the recent pandemic…), the obstacles it encounters are no less redoubtable. The emerging multipolar system is characterised by the prevalence of diverging, and often antagonistic, state preferences, outdated and often ill-equipped global governance institutional architecture, nationalist populism, unilateralist trends, as well as neo-mercantilist conflicts.

The EU has an important global role to play in terms of defending multilateralism, through its enhancement and transformation, as a crucial component of global governance. However, its capacity and influence in shaping globalisation are being shaken by major geopolitical factors, such as the rise of new or re-emerging powers (China, India, Russia) and the United States’ more recent foreign policy shifts.

Taking stock of recent developments research should propose ways of redesigning and re-invigorating global cooperation with a view to greater accountability, openness and legitimacy. This should include new reflections on the norms, institutions and actors that can support a more robust and effective multilateralism as well as a stocktaking and assessment of the modalities and possibilities of multileveled participation in cross-border governance, ranging from the local to the global level. Research should also account for differences between fields and areas of governance, corresponding to diverse levels and modalities of multilateral cooperation. It should analyse whether and how such differences may hamper the governance of global challenges, which are highly intersecting, e.g. health and mobility in relation to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, and propose ways forward.

Projects are expected to:

* Identify barriers and opportunities for re-invigorating and enhancing the formal legal and institutional architecture of the rules-based global system. Analyse, through a mix of normative and empirical methodologies, ways to reinforce the institutions that work, replace those that do not, and propose those that are missing, with the aim of spurring the transformation of global governance.
* Relate the capacity of the populist and nationalist actors to feed on sovereigntist claims and narratives to the challenges confronted by the projects of supranational integration. Comparative approaches at European and global levels should be developed.
* Identify new actors, norms and processes of participation and representation, which can boost the legitimacy, transparency and effectiveness of multilateral institutions.
* Analyse interests and strategies of other international powers, such as the United States, China, India, Russia or of other regional groupings (e.g. Mercosur, ASEAN) in disseminating new collective norms for global governance. Identify where these interests, strategies and norms are incompatible with EU values and long-term interests and recommend policy action for the EU to counter them.

**Democratic politics in the EU’s neighbourhood**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Comprehensive stocktaking of developments over the last decade, so that the EU democracy support efforts can both regain traction and be revamped where necessary.
* Develop modern policy toolkit for supporting democracy in the EU’s neighbourhood, paving the way for more stability and cooperation.
* Evidence base for the mid-term review of the implementation of the Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

Scope:

Since the EU Council conclusions of 2009, EU democracy support has evolved and has been fine-tuned, following advances and setbacks. Following the adoption of the EU strategic framework on human rights and democracy in 2012, the EU adopted two Action Plans (2012-2014 and 2015-2019) in order to implement its commitments and reach its goals (a new Action Plan was proposed in early 2020 by the EC for 2020-2024).

Despite the hopes raised by the ‘colour revolutions’ in Eastern Europe in the 2000s and the Arab Spring in 2011, as boosters of democratisation in the European neighbourhood, a more lukewarm reality persists: some democratic advances coexist with the continued persistence of authoritarian rule in both Eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries. Research should assess EU’s democracy promotion actorness, its influence on political governance in the neighbourhood and its capacity to react and address the potential gaps between the declared intentions and the results and consequences of its democracy support policies. Such an assessment would facilitate the proposals for policy innovations increasing the likelihood of a democratisation policy closer to the realities on the ground in the two regions.

Projects are expected to:

* Take stock of developments in democracy building or failure in the EU’s neighbouring countries. Draw lessons as regards success factors and barriers (political, economic, social, cultural etc.) in the different national and regional contexts.
* Analyse the interplay of security and stability considerations and democratisation support in the EU’s agenda and actions.
* Assess the mechanisms the EU uses to support political change, the discourses and narratives it employs and the actors it targets. Collect reliable and comparable data on funding for democracy, human rights, the rule of law and good governance support, to build an account of the outcomes of a decade’s efforts, and facilitate learning and improvement.

[COVID-19 topic] **Politics and governance in a post-pandemic world**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Comparative analysis of the multilevel political impacts of the 2020 pandemic crisis.
* Recommendations, based on normative and empirical approaches, to enhance the capacity of the EU and other democratic institutions, governments and intergovernmental bodies to build responses to global catastrophes based on international collaboration, solidarity, the rule of law and respect of fundamental values.

Scope:

The 2020 coronavirus crisis will affect our societies in profound ways, engulfing many different social aspects. Far beyond the public health threat, the crisis will cause economic dislocations and social disruptions that will test political processes and institutions. In particular, the measures taken by national governments in the context of states of emergency, alarm or danger to contain the virus as fast and effectively as possible represent fundamental challenges to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights.

Even if allegedly temporary, derogations from fundamental constitutional checks and balances, individual rights and civil liberties might render liberal democracies permeable to illiberal attitudes and mind frames. In this vein, research can examine the impact of the pandemic on populist and extremist discourses and proposals, and assess whether it has bolstered polarisation and the appeal of authoritarianism or whether, on the contrary, it has provided impetus and momentum for an effective sustainment of venues for democratic accountability and judicial control.

Moreover, a stocktaking exercise should allow identifying whether the political trend emerging from the crisis is a demand for greater and improved collaboration and concerted action amongst EU member states or, on the contrary, an overall “renationalisation” of the EU and international spheres.

Research projects are expected to:

* Examine the impacts of the different “exceptional or crisis politics” on the constitutional and democratic polity: rule of law, political institutions, political participation, human rights and freedoms. A comparative analysis, taking into account the varying approaches followed by the different governments, is encouraged.
* Take stock of the reconfiguration of the geopolitical landscape following the replies and policies put forward by the different actors of the multipolar international order.
* Identify and propose changes and reforms required by the global governance in order to enhance the capacity to cope with and react to similar future crisis. In particular, examine and propose “circuit-breakers” mechanisms that could isolate systemic risks early on and prevent them from spreading.
* Build evidence on how international cooperation, or the lack of, at both European and global levels, is a vital tool for national governments to overcome contemporary large-scale crises.
* Propose ways to the EU and the multilateral system to demonstrate that they can enhance national governments’ efforts without challenging their political authority in contexts of security and health threats. In this respect, the impact on the legitimacy of the EU following on its role and action measures during the crisis is of particular interest.

**Call 2 – Reshaping democracies (2022)**

**Artificial intelligence, big data and democracy**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Protection of fundamental rights and European public values from possible threats of unregulated use of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data.
* Value-centric frameworks to regulate AI use and processing of big data.
* Innovative uses of AI and big data to enhance citizen engagement and democracy.

Scope:

Big data and AI are shaping our societies at an unprecedented rate. We produce an ever-increasing amount of data revealing people’s attitudes, preferences, etc. These are used and “privatised” by big companies and platforms to augment commercial returns, often at the expense of citizens’ rights.

AI and big data open great opportunities in many fields of public interest: education, training, health, safety and security, as well as democratic processes and civic participation. At the same time, they pose new challenges both to individual “consumer” values – such as security, transparency and privacy – and to European collective values, such as fairness, inclusiveness, accountability and democratic control.

Projects will explore how to protect citizens from potential abuse enabled by AI and big data, how to regulate the platforms using these technologies (beyond GDPR), but also how to leverage them for enhancing civic participation and democracy. Issues at stake include, inter alia: data ownership and/or inalienability; regulation of data flows; neutrality and explainability of algorithms and machine learning; value-centric, decentralised and/or open source designs for data processing platforms; counter-powers to dominant platforms; sensitive applications such as face recognition; etc.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Build evidence, review and analyse threats to and opportunities for democracy, personal and collective European values stemming from AI and big data, including a specific focus on gender issues and vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities and people at risk of discrimination.
* Propose ethical standards, regulatory and governance frameworks, supported with operational guidance, in order to protect citizens, uphold European values and ensure public trust in AI and processing of big data.
* Explore innovative uses of AI and big data for civic engagement and democracy, including through experimental approaches.

**The future of democracy and civic participation**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Enhance and expand the implementation of civic participation in democratic life at scale, including the least engaged communities and categories of the population.
* Improve the articulation between deliberative processes and representative institutions in liberal democracies.
* Increase trust in democratic governance through clear and transparent feedback mechanisms to citizens.

Scope:

Civic participation is researched through a significant number and variety of projects under Horizon 2020, on which further research and innovation can build. At the same time, this is a fast moving field as new, spontaneous and/or innovative forms of participation emerge: from ‘gilets jaunes’ to youth movements for climate and sustainability. Social entrepreneurship is another significant trend attempting to achieve societal or political impact through individual initiative. More organised participatory and deliberative processes are also being tested and implemented in many local, national and even European and global contexts.

The interface between these movements and processes and the representative institutions of liberal democracies has often been chaotic or conflictual. However, attempts are also made to improve these interactions and embed them in formal mechanisms.

A major issue for civic participation is the engagement of the disenfranchised or less spontaneously engaged parts of society. Reaching to them and ensuring that their voices are heard and listened to in the democratic debate, is key to guarantee the fairness and inclusiveness of our political systems.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Review available evidence and experience with various forms of civic participation in Europe, from spontaneous forms of engagement to organised participatory and deliberative processes; from traditional types such as participation to political parties and organised civil society to newer ones such as social entrepreneurship; and from local to national, European and even global scales of participation. Analysis should review and compare the forms, depth and effectiveness of civic engagement on different topics of political life, ranging from local issues such as urban planning to international policy matters and issues traditionally considered as ‘reserved’ to experts or policy professionals.
* Examine how different types of civic engagement can complement, interplay and lead to each other, in particular with a view to ensure as extensive, inclusive and impactful participation in all aspects of democratic life as possible. Research should include a specific focus on inequalities in civic participation, including gender and intersectionalities, and explore and propose remedies.
* Examine how civic participation in its various forms articulates with the traditional mechanisms and institutions of representative democracy and propose ways to improve their interaction, including robust and transparent mutual feedback between policymakers and citizens.
* Projects are encouraged to include experimental research to test the insights gathered and to deploy innovative solutions to demonstrate the solutions proposed.

**Education for democracy.**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Build robust evidence base for redesigning curricula in support of democracy.
* Toolkit for enhancing the humanistic and civic aspects of education with a view to enhancing active democratic citizenship.

Scope:

Education plays an important role in bolstering democratic citizenship and strengthening the resilience of democratic societies. It can play an essential role in the promotion of core values like human rights and the rule of law, as well as in the prevention of human rights violations. It can also help promote gender equality, disability inclusiveness, a culture of peace and non-violence, appreciation of cultural diversity, help tackle radicalisation and successfully integrate migrants and refugees. At the same time, research shows that voters with more extreme attitudes are overrepresented among citizens with low formal education and a below-average household income. Extreme populist discourses find more support among citizens who are disappointed with cultural modernisation and are negatively impacted by economic liberalisation and internationalisation.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Show how educational material can be used to mediate or inform topics linked to current debates about European identity, migration, tolerance, international solidarity, disability, hate speech, race and gender.
* Examine how education can be instrumentalised in terms of producing certain kinds of historical consciousness.
* Highlight the competences needed for boosting the capacity to actively engage in democratic politics and corresponding methods to guide teaching and assessment of these competences. Propose avenues for updating curricula and for supporting the teaching staff, with a view to bolstering democratic values.
* Provide comprehensive evidence from European countries on the links between economic and educational inequalities and levels of political engagement, social trust and inter-cultural tolerance.

**Evolution of political extremism and its influence on contemporary social and political dialogue**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* In-depth understanding of the major factors contributing to the present rise of extremist narratives and of their influence on mainstream worldviews, discourses and policies across European countries and in their global context.
* Policy recommendations to help counter these extremist narratives and limit their spread and their impact.

Scope:

The extraordinary Covid-19 crisis risks further strengthening extremist political narratives that havealready been rising starkly across Europe since the 2008 recession. These narratives fuel the demand for more protectionism, nation-state localisation of production and tougher frontier controls, but first of all perception of foreigners as a threat. In times of emergency, while some recognise the need for enhanced cooperation and solidarity across borders, others fall back on a reductionist vision of the nation-state and seek a sense of security behind closed walls. Extremist doctrines, including those of anti-immigrant groups, emboldened by crisis situations and the temporary reintroduction of border controls, building on them to further promote their closed visions of nation-states and in some cases hate speech and violent acts. Such trends have been particularly striking in Europe as the EU was built on opposite premises. However, their rise in Europe forms part of wider trends and should be analysed in connection with the strengthening of authoritarian, populist and extremist discourses in other countries. Moreover, some of the greater impacts of extremist narratives stem from their influence on mainstream political discourses and policies. Another source of concern is the increasingly frequent alliance between traditional left- and right-wing extremist parties, as well as with newer ‘anti-system’ movements, against moderate forces.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Analysis of the various forms, dynamics and disruptive potential of support for extremist narratives in political forces and society in Europe, including both national specificities – embedded in their historical, social and cultural contexts – and transnational influences within Europe and globally.
* Research on penetration of extremist ideology and argumentation into general media, social and political discourses. Projects should analyse the drivers of such discourses, including the respective roles of the media, political spheres and popular sentiment and their interplay.
* Identification of key factors that may contribute to countering extremist political narratives and limiting their spread and impact and development of policy recommendations.
* Development of corresponding policy recommendations.

**Media for democracy – democratic media**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Demonstrate how media can contribute to a healthy and reinvigorated democracy.
* Explore how media themselves can become more accountable and improve the quality and transparency of the democratic institutional framework.

Scope:

A robust, independent and plural media landscape is an essential part of a functioning democracy. Through control and criticism, offering a stage for the competition of ideas and interests, and promoting political participation and responsible action of citizens, media can be a powerful source of power legitimation.

Media accountability (enacted by mechanisms such as press and media councils, ombudspersons, media journalism, etc.) has a key role in democratic societies for safeguarding a free and responsible media performance. In the light of an increased economization of media communication and the accelerated technological changes, the established system of media accountability seems to be at the crossroads and require novel perspectives for enhancement. Research should thus examine the political role of legacy and new digital media in performing key democratic functions.

Projects are expected to:

* Examine under what conditions legacy and new media organizations (and journalism) operate in modern European societies, and whether and how they serve the public interest.
* Focus on the implications of modern technologically mediated configurations for the political agency of citizens. Relevant foci could be media participation and civic engagement, inequality and exclusion, institutional politics and activist movements.
* Analyse changes in media markets and the role of economic (commercial) forces in shaping current mutations in the role of media.
* Bring together academic research, practitioners’ reflection, and citizen’s views on all aspects of the relationship between media and democracy.
* Analyse how recent transformations in journalism have affected participation and democratic discourses and, conversely, how a shifting political landscape, with increased polarisation as a major trait, have affected the media.

**Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media.**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Evidence based recommendations for addressing the challenges to political behaviour and democratic engagement by social platforms and new media.
* Enhance capacities for digital citizenship.

Scope:

Social media and other internet-based platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google, are intertwined with political life. They play an important role in allowing people to consume and share political news, seek political information and discuss, make decisions, donate money, or engage with political parties and other organisations. Furthermore, these platforms and media are supposed to open new avenues to political engagement and democratic participation. However, developments in the recent past have created anxieties about their capacity to protect citizens from disinformation and to serve as balanced and open public fora for democratic debates. On the contrary, social platforms and new media are increasingly perceived as conducive to the creation of ideological “echo-chambers” fostering polarisation, radicalisation and spreading misinformation. At the same time, they have been instrumentalised in attempts to covertly influence the political choices of citizens thus sapping their democratic credentials.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Build Europe-wide evidence on the extent to which political opportunities and information afforded by platforms and new media – and resulting “echo-chambers” – affects political attitudes in European states and at the level of the EU and its neighbourhood.
* Examine the extent to which platforms and new media actually help democratise political systems and offer avenues of active engagement or not.
* Propose regulatory innovations in response to the covert instrumentalisation of social platforms for political goals.
* Develop evidence based approaches and methods for enhancing capacities for digital citizenship.

**Destination 2 – Innovative Research on the European Cultural Heritage and the Cultural and Creative Industries**

Europe’s rich cultural heritage, with its common values, its wealth of monuments and sites and its creative diversity of traditions, crafts, arts, literature, theatre, films and music, not only reflects our past but also shapes our present and builds our future. It is a creative way of cultivating independent thinking and dialogue, while promoting our values and interests across the world. Access to and getting involved with cultural heritage contributes to social cohesion and inclusion, by strengthening the sense of belonging, resilience, bringing people together and improving their well-being.

Europe’s common R&I action to protect, conserve, restore and repair its important cultural heritage, promote its use as one of the substantial European resources, boost its traditional and contemporary arts and create wider awareness is still limited in scope and impact. Moreover, European tangible and intangible cultural heritage is increasingly facing a number of challenges such as deterioration due to climate change, pollution, natural or man-made disasters, looting and illicit trafficking, lack of finance, security issues or insufficient valorisation towards an as large as possible public. In addition, Europe’s cultural production (in particular film and music) lags behind in international competitiveness despite its high quality and quantity.

To promote and valorise our cultural heritage, while increasing its international competitiveness and strengthening the social fabric at national, regional or local level, a broad Research and Innovation co-operation of a wide set of stakeholders and efficient coordination between EU Member States with an active involvement of the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) is necessary. The CCI sector has an important inbuilt potential for innovation and can drive transformation in other parts of the economy. Research and innovation can contribute to strengthening this process by providing evidence of the innovation potential of CCIs and their impact on economic and social development.

In line with the Commission priorities, the R&I activities of this destination will help promoting the European way of life, achieving the Green Deal goals and supporting an economy that works for the people. They will also contribute to realising the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to a more crisis resilient society and economy by taking into account experiences, challenges and lessons learnt also from the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, post COVID-19 crisis management concerns too could be addressed.

Concretely, R&I activities under this destination and Calls are oriented towards interdisciplinary research of cultural heritage. They will support the EU’s policy objective by monitoring, safeguarding and transmitting cultural heritage, fostering the CCIs and promoting cultural diversity. They will aim at protecting historical sites and monuments, artefacts, heritage sites, cultural landscapes, museums, languages, customs, traditions and values. Through new or existing cutting-edge conservation and restoration technologies and methods. They will help restore and preserve monuments and artefacts with green technologies and protect tangible and intangible heritage from natural hazards and man-made disasters, including the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural goods. By promoting research and innovation across the cultural and creative sectors, they will foster the value, protection, access to and sustainability of culture and new jobs creation across Europe.

CCIs will indeed benefit from the use of existing and the creation of new digitised historical and cultural collections and new methodologies of digital humanities to share and increase access to and engagement with cultural heritage through innovative approaches. Culture and creativity is an important value added to the European economy. Building on our cultural heritage and using our creativity, we can further develop the design and identity of products while shaping the public image of our countries and regions. We can market cultural as well as intellectual experiences at a premium. CCIs are at the frontline of this action, investing knowledge and creativity while adding new jobs and growing the economy at a fast rate.

Furthermore, building on the role of intangible heritage (e.g. traditions, identities, crafts, music, etc.) and languages, the new forms of cultural and artistic expression and a wider access to tangible heritage, R&I actions under this destination will connect cultural heritage with the CCIs. Through new approaches, they will offer innovative, integrated, sustainable and participative management and business models for museums and cultural institutions, with a view to spurring inclusive growth, jobs, social cohesion and diversity. Research in old and new forms of cultural and artistic expression will promote intercultural cooperation, engage citizens and young people and valorise traditional skills and the reuse of existing assets. Exploring the economic role of CCIs and investigating the impact of creative and artistic intervention into innovation processes will provide capacities for increasing Europe’s competitiveness in the CCIs.

Through all these activities, Research and Innovation will underpin the European Union’s leading role in protecting, preserving and enhancing Europe’s cultural heritage and scale-up the competitiveness of its cultural and creative sectors.

Proposals under this destination should consider and/or promote in a cross-cutting way and whenever appropriate and applicable:

• Use of digital and cutting-edge technologies;

• An active and sustainable engagement of stakeholders and citizens;

• The active involvement of local, regional or national authorities, when appropriate, particularly in the uptake and implementation of research results and recommendations;

• A clear strategy on the uptake of research outcomes, recommendations or results, in particular when CCIs are participating or are concerned;

• Training and education activities for targeted groups of users or stakeholders;

• A solid plan on how projects will use or build on outputs and results from research already undertaken and technology already available;

• The increased participation of CCIs, SMEs and industry;

• Lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic crisis for a sustainable management of the post-crisis society.

• Contribution to the Green Deal goals.

Expected impacts:

Proposals for topics under this Destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to the following expected impacts of the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan:

- Better protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as arts is achieved through inclusive policies, innovative methodologies and citizens’ participation.

- The full potential of cultural and creative sectors as a driver of innovation is realised through stronger links with other sectors as well as improving value, access to, protection and sustainability of cultural heritage

The following calls in this Work Programme contribute to this Destination:

**Call 1 – Research and Innovation on Cultural Heritage and CCIs (2021)**

**Green Technologies and Materials for Cultural Heritage**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Contribute to the objectives of the Green Deal by developing methods to conserve, preserve and restore monuments and artefacts with respect to different materials in a sustainable green way.
* Promote research on the quality of conservation, supporting maintenance, restoration and conservation of cultural heritage in a sustainable and green way. Ensure higher quality standards in conservation and restoration of Europe’s cultural heritage.
* Improve energy efficiency in heritage sites, museums, galleries, libraries, archives and cultural institutions.
* Involve citizens in conservation, safeguarding and restoration actions to help them engage with their cultural heritage and contribute to its preservation.

Scope:

Materials and methods for the conservation and restoration of Cultural Heritage can often be energy consuming, not environmental friendly or harmful for the health of operators and curators. Moreover, many of these materials and methods prove to be not durable nor sustainable, leading often to the need of repetitive and costly interventions to restore monuments. Research has already addressed this challenge to a certain extent, but the wide range of different materials, types of buildings and monuments and specific needs of artefacts calls for further investigation and targeted solutions.

In this context and in view of achieving the objectives of the Green Deal, proposals under this topic should provide solutions and explore ways for quality conservation and restoration in a green and sustainable way. They should develop effective and sustainable strategies that are feasible, affordable to end-users and safe to the operators and the works of art to ensure the long-term conservation of and physical access to Cultural Heritage resources. The proposed materials and methods for remedial or preventive conservation and restoration should be green, durable and sustainable. They should also be environmental-friendly, with no impact on health of restorers and curators and contribute, whenever necessary, to energy efficiency of monuments, historic buildings and cultural institutions. Digital and cutting-edge technologies should be developed or further exploited as necessary.

To achieve these objectives, R&I actions under this topic should adopt and apply a holistic approach in conservation of art materials through an interdisciplinary network of knowledge and skills both from hard and soft sciences. Proposals should contribute to bringing together basic and applied research, social, cultural and entrepreneurial innovation through the involvement of cultural and creative sectors to ensure sustainability. Awareness raising actions among citizens and young people’s involvement in new preservation and transmission methods may also be targeted to widen access to and engagement with Cultural Heritage.

**Protection of artefacts and cultural goods from anthropogenic threats**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Contribute to the protection and safeguarding of European endangered cultural heritage.
* Deploy preventative measures against looting and illicit trade of cultural goods.
* Develop non-destructive methods and digital tools for the protection and identification of cultural goods.
* Raise awareness among citizens, stakeholders and all actors involved.

Scope:

Cultural goods and artefacts are put at risk through a number of man-made actions. Looting, smuggling and illicit trade of cultural goods is a major danger threatening to destroy our Cultural Heritage. Illicit trafficking of cultural goods is not a new phenomenon, but in recent years, it has expanded dramatically, especially in areas affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters. The destruction, theft, looting or smuggling of cultural goods stems from a desire to destroy the collective memory and dismember the identity of people. Moreover, the illicit trafficking of cultural property contributes to the funding of terrorism, organized crime and money laundering. Regulations and legal instruments are put in place to criminalize the offences and penalize the offenders, but research is needed at the level of prevention to protect cultural artefacts from falling victims of theft, smuggling or illicit trade.

To address this challenge, proposals under this topic should explore preventive actions such as methods or technologies/materials of non-destructive marking of cultural goods with respect to material and nature of artefacts and ways to identify cultural objects. The proposed technologies should be sustainable and detectable without heavy or expensive equipment. Building on existing networks and cooperation facilities, projects should contribute to further awareness raising and mobilizing all actors involved (art dealers, auction houses, policy makers, law enforcement agents, stakeholders or citizens).

**Effects of climate change and natural hazards on Cultural Heritage and remediation**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Safeguard and protect Europe’s cultural heritage from the effects of climate change, including rural and remote areas, coastal and maritime cultural landscapes and underwater heritage.
* Explore innovative and sustainable ways to protect cultural heritage and cultural landscapes from climate change, disaster risks and pollutants.

Scope:

Climate change as manifested in the global warming, rising sea levels, extended dry seasons or floods and heavy storms, is threatening our built heritage and affecting our cultural and natural landscapes. Acid rain and environmental pollution erode monuments and historical buildings, while rising sea levels threaten to cover entire cities under water. Solutions provided already by research are not exhaustive and could not always anticipate the aggravating or newly emerging effects of the continuous climate change. Thus, there is a pressing need to explore innovative ways of protecting monuments and historical buildings from the effects of climate change and natural hazards.

Proposals under this topic should explore innovative and sustainable ways to protect monuments, historical buildings and sites from climate change effects, addressing, in particular , the need for research on wetting phenomena and repellence. Importance should also be given to coastal and maritime regions and underwater heritage.

Involving citizens and young people and cooperation with the Cultural and Creative industries is strongly encouraged to ensure sustainability of the approach.

**New ways of participatory management and sustainable financing of cultural institutions and museums**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Explore new ways of participatory cultural management and sustainable financing of cultural institutions, in particular during and after times of crises such as the coronavirus pandemic.
* Ensure better access to cultural heritage and engagement with local communities to preserve and strengthen social cohesion.
* Strengthen the sense of belonging to a common European space while respecting cultural diversity.
* Promote the role of museums in health, well-being, social inclusion and society’s dealing with trauma and post-crisis recovery.
* Contribute to sustainable economic growth and regional development.

Scope:

Museums and cultural places play a key-role in social inclusion and cohesion. They create the sense of belonging, build identities, improve people’s well-being and contribute to sustainable development and growth at local and national level. Nowadays, museums are facing several challenges, such as scarce funding, insufficient visitor numbers or, to the other extent, massive tourist crowds, which necessitate new and expensive conservation means and security tools. All these challenges are threatening the existence and efficient work of museums.

Adding to the aforementioned challenges, the lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic has heavily affected museums, cultural institutions and the entire ecosystem around them: museums closed down for months, leaving staff unemployed and putting at risk cultural goods, as forced closing and absence of curators can severely impact the conservation and safety of collections.

On the other hand, cultural institutions have demonstrated great resilience and creativity in communicating with their publics remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding the general lockdown, the cultural sector, fully aware of the important role of culture, immediately mobilized itself to maintain activities and ease people’s feeling of isolation: using digital technology and artificial intelligence, museums and cultural institutions offered new possibilities to access heritage and knowledge by participating in online cultural events, provided new training and capacity-building programmes to support cultural circles and strengthened their presence in the internet and social media.

In light of the post-Covid era, museums and cultural institutions will need to be the agents of revival. They will be called to give people the greatest sense that their life is no longer in abeyance, help to keep up the moral and be essential markers of people’s re-engagement with their cultural heritage. Therefore, there is a pressing need to ensure methods of sustainable financing in order to help museums and cultural institutions recover quickly, continue operate in a safe and viable way and widen as much as possible access to citizens. Although the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as far as economic losses and jobs are concerned cannot be fully predicted yet, international organisations, such as the UNESCO, ICOM, NeMO and OECD provide already recommendations for measures to be put in place. Furthermore, national authorities have started allocating recovery funds that could benefit also the cultural institutions’ sector. However, these measures are only partial, short-term solutions and do not solve the sector’s structural financing issues.

Therefore, R&I proposals under this topic are asked to explore ways to mitigate the challenges that museums, cultural institutions and the entire ecosystem around them are facing nowadays, including the social and economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. They should provide methods to sustainable finance cultural institutions, while ensuring equal and wide access to culture, heritage and cultural goods. Emphasis should be put on the role of local museums and new ways of participatory cultural management to help museums become fully embedded in cities’ life. A museum digital strategy, including sustainable ways or sharing facilities to communicate through objects, collections and both tangible and intangible cultural heritage should also be developed. Proposals are encouraged to include close interaction with local, regional and national authorities, as well as cooperation with the cultural and creative stakeholders (e.g. artists, actors, interpretation specialists, designers) to attract and engage the public and in particular young people.

**Games and culture shaping our society**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Evidence of the impact of games on European society, including their cultural value and risks.
* Evidence of the innovation potential of games and play (on-line or other).
* New knowledge on the role of the games industry and non-commercial creative practices in the EU to benefit society.
* Improved knowledge of legal and intellectual property rights issues linked to the gaming population and games industry in the international markets.
* Make proposals on the potential for improving games and gamification mechanisms in terms of improving skillsets, employment chances social cohesion and creativity.

Scope:

Games are fast growing, fast changing parts of industry known for their advanced role in ICT. Yet, although millions of Europeans play these games, the impact of games on European culture and society, as well as on its cohesion and values has not been thoroughly researched.

Research should address these gaps in knowledge, which include possible differences between age groups and socioeconomic backgrounds, the current situation in game literacy or the digital divide. Games are a form of culture where new communication and languages, as well as new artistic expressions, are being developed in particular by younger generations. However, there is limited knowledge about the potential benefits of games in terms of learning and creativity. In today’s ever-expanding market, games and emerging forms of play are involved in many aspects of our societies. However, research has not sufficiently addressed the cultural value, impact on society, innovation potential and the risks games can present.

Proposals should address the role of games in culture and in shaping European societies, their cohesion and values, with the objective of developing new knowledge and evidence for policymaking. Proposals should address legal and IPR issues linked to the EU gaming population and its creative work. Relevant stakeholders should be involved including non-commercial interests and policy makers, to ensure the research and results respond well to the needs. This new knowledge and evidence should provide input for policymaking and for improved practices.

**Coordination of European Cultural Heritage research and innovation among Member States**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: CSA**

Expected outcomes:

* Prepare a ground-breaking and novel coordination network on Cultural Heritage research and innovation policies and activities, including the Cultural and Creative Sectors.
* Identify research and innovation domains with European added value justifying future activities.
* Propose new ways for engagement of citizens and, in particular, the young generation in cultural heritage as part of the perception of our societies and our sense of belonging.
* Develop an open approach to Cultural Heritage, fostering curiosity for new developments and diversity, as well as emphasising its role in transmission of knowledge and building a bridge from the past over the present to the future.

Scope:

The European Union has provided funding through co-funding schemes to coordinate national activities on Cultural Heritage and Arts R&I and increase their impact. Through ERA-Net Co-funding Joint Research Programmes, H2020 has been topping-up Member States’ national funding to promote the coordination of national activities and strengthen their European added value. With the end of H2020 the impact of these co-funding schemes need to be assessed in order to agree further coordination and partnership with Member States and Associated Countries in the new Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme.

Proposals under this topic are expected firstly to realise a mapping of Cultural Heritage national activities, programmes and European ERA-Net Co-funding schemes on Cultural Heritage R&I. Furthermore, they should evaluate the European value added, possible overlapping with central EU activities, gaps and impact of ERA-Net Co-funding schemes in the field of Cultural Heritage. Taking stock of lessons learnt, they should explore and identify the objectives of a future, ground-breaking and wide network to increase the impact of national funding at European level and provide analysis and policy scenarios for future EU-level intervention in this area. The role and participation of Cultural and Creative Sectors in this frame should be assessed in particular. The network should provide a novel approach, consist of the EU Member States and be open towards as many as possible Associated Countries, a wide spectrum of stakeholders, civil society and young people.

**Cultural and Creative Industries as a driver of innovation and competitiveness**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Evidence of the innovation potential of the cultural and creative industries based in the EU.
* Evidence of the role of the cultural and creative industries as drivers of innovation in other economic sectors such as industry and services.
* Evidence of direct and indirect effects on the EU economy by the cultural and creative industries, economic spill-over effects on other sectors and the potential for further economic growth and employment in the cultural and creative industries.
* Evidence of the how cultural and creative EU industries could benefit from new technologies, new business models, skills development, new distribution and/or promotion models.
* Proposals for further strengthening the competitiveness and drawing benefit from the innovation potential of the sector in the EU and in the international markets.

Scope:

The cultural and creative industries (CCI) are an important source of growth and job creation in the European economy. The growth of this sector has raised interest at policy level for its innovation potential and for contributing to improved competitiveness. The challenge is to understand how to realise the full potential of CCIs as a driver for innovation, create stronger links with other sectors and contribute to strengthening the European economy.

The cultural and creative industries are as diverse as our culture. Building on our cultural heritage and using their creativity, they pursue a wide variety of activities, ranging from cultural performances to creative design of products and shaping the public image of countries and regions. The CCI sector counts many self-employed, as well as some very large market players for example in the audio-visual and music sectors. Markets in this sector are heterogeneous and there is no comprehensive mapping at EU level. The CCI sector has been growing rapidly and in some regions of Europe it is outperforming more established sectors in terms of growth and employment.

The cultural and creative industries have been heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. The social confinement is likely to have a long-term impact by significantly reducing incomes and adding to unemployment. These problems will need to be taken into consideration in research, including proposals for reinvigorating the sector.

Research proposals should explore the innovation potential of the cultural and creative industries, their role as drivers of innovation in other sectors and the potential for strengthening competitiveness. Research should study how cultural and creative EU industries could benefit from new technologies, new business models, skills development, new distribution and/or promotion models with the purpose of strengthening their performance. Research should also identify policy measures for further strengthening the competitiveness and drawing benefit from the innovation potential of the sector in the EU and the international markets.

**Preserving and enhancing cultural heritage with advanced digital technologies**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Develop and strengthen the use of digital technologies to protect, restore and safeguard Cultural Heritage in complementarity to other research methods.
* Facilitate and widen access to cultural assets through digital and cutting-edge technologies, in parallel or as an alternative to physical access to Cultural Heritage.
* Support comparative analysis with Artificial Intelligence and other digital means to improve innovation and knowledge exchange in the cultural and creative sectors.
* Increase the competitiveness of cultural and creative industries in the internal market and internationally, and provide opportunities for new jobs creation.
* Explore the role of digital tools and 3D technologies in engaging with Cultural Heritage during and after the Covid-19 crisis.
* Use digital tools and other outcomes to provide efficient and global solutions to the real needs of protecting and preserving Cultural Heritage, including the “born ditigal” one.

Scope:

Digital technologies from 3D tech, to artificial intelligence and virtual/augmented reality, are being used to ensure preservation and wide access to Cultural Heritage. Extensive research has been funded already to support digitisation of libraries and archives, virtual tours in museums and archaeological sites and digital curation and preservation of cultural goods. However, more R&I still has to be done to expand and further support the areas where digital tools are applied responding to the real needs of protecting our Cultural Heritage and making it accessible to an as wide as possible public. Moreover, the “born digital” heritage, in parallel to the digitised one, is becoming of increased importance, requiring further research on its intrinsic value and use limitations.

Of particular interest is also the role of digital during the recent Covid-19 pandemic crisis, as it proved to be the most valuable means to access cultural assets during the extended period of confinement. Museums and libraries offered free access to their collections, artists were performing live online and theatres where streaming their performances through the web to help lifting people’s morale and improving their well-being during confinement. Assessing the impact of these activities and draw lessons learnt for managing future crises requires targeted research.

Taking into account these points, R&I actions under this topic are envisaged to promote extended digitisation to protect, restore and safeguard collections, artefacts and monuments in a sustainable and user-friendly way, including the “born digital” heritage. They should develop digital facilities that will allow building shared infrastructures, provide specialized trainings and courses and facilitate knowledge and know-how exchange in addressing the real needs in the field of Cultural Heritage. They will increase thus the use of existing tools and cutting-edge technologies, such as augmented reality or Artificial Intelligence, to reduce access- and knowledge limitations to cultural assets. By assessing the role of digitisation in engaging with culture and Cultural Heritage during the Covid-19 crisis, they should draw lessons learnt and provide recovery policy scenarios or tools for the cultural and creative sectors in post-crisis era. By creating new or fostering existing tools, they should aim at boosting the socio-economic sustainability of cultural and creative industries in the Covid-19 post-crisis period and provide sustainable applications and solutions to strengthen their innovation potential and manage future crises.

R&I actions funded under this topic are expected to establish a state of the art of methodologies and tools to protect the rich and diverse European Cultural Heritage from the past up to the present, including the“born ditigal” heritage.

**Call 2 – Research and Innovation on Cultural Heritage and CCIs (2022)**

**Safeguarding endangered languages in Europe**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: CSA**

Expected outcomes:

* Creating cooperation at the European level between key actors and stakeholders within endangered languages communities.
* Empowering local communities and promoting citizens’ engagement in the sustainable management of their own resources, in line with the principles of the Faro Convention.
* Suggesting strategies to involve young people in the (re)discovery of their linguistic heritage and its importance for the development of their identity building.
* Promoting equality and linguistic diversity in line with the EU’s motto ‘United in Diversity’ and its work to reinforce the central role of multilingualism in Europe.

Scope:

Languages are the expression of the identity, culture and the way communities and peoples perceive their world. They are an essential part of the rich fabric of European culture. A different language is a different vision of life. Each language which disappears impoverishes the riches of our cultural diversity. While this risk has been recognized internationally (including by UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, etc.), many of the 60 regional and minority languages, which are spoken today in the European Union are in danger of disappearing.

The action should preliminary provide a state of the art of the sociolinguistic and legal situation of European endangered languages as well as of past and present policies and ways promoting their transmission by exploring measures in different areas such as the educational and the cultural and creative sectors. The use of digital tools is strongly encouraged, as this is the easiest channel to reach and involve young people in the (re)discovery of their own linguistic heritage.

The creation of a European language preservation ecosystem is at the heart of this topic, in particular with the establishment of a set of guidelines for revitalizing endangered languages in Europe and the setting up of a comprehensive website aiming also at exchanging best practices. A set of identified guidelines will be validated by the use of concrete cases of language revitalization. Available results of research already undertaken on language revitalisation should be taken in consideration and identification of needs for future research in the field will take place. Examples of grass root movements that foster the pleasure, in particular, for young people, to learn such languages should be analysed and their motivating factors examined. This should enhance developing methodologies from these good practices and make them adaptable to local situations. Participation of regional or local communities and/or administrations, NGOs, universities, networks and platforms working on multilingualism as well as on the promotion of regional and minority languages are encouraged and will ensure efficient and comprehensive bottom-up solutions.

**Europe’s Cultural Heritage and Arts - promoting our values at home and abroad**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Better awareness and appreciation of European arts, culture and values within the EU and internationally by leveraging the creativity of arts and cultural heritage partners in Europe.
* Wider exposure of European and international partners to the diversity of European art, culture and values by strengthening the links to the creative industries and other parts of the economy.
* Reinforced common European action to promote Europe’s culture and economic interests internationally, contributing to strengthening European competitiveness.

Scope:

European arts and our cultural heritage have an intrinsic value in enriching our lives, but also reflect our way of life, contribute to shaping our society and its values. They are important elements of our creativity and innovation, on which we build economic growth and social development. They also have a role in shaping the way Europe is perceived from afar, thus important assets in our “soft power” and for promoting Europe’s place in the world. If Europe wants to maintain its place in a globalised world, it is in our interest to step up our common efforts at promoting Europe’s culture, values and interests.

However, we seem not being necessarily aware of, or appreciate, the diversity of European arts and cultural heritage. The challenge of research is to contribute knowledge as well as identifying ways of reinforcing common European action for the benefit or our society.

New and creative approaches may be required e.g. contemporary art forms, modern technology and media, to broaden its attractiveness and reach. Similarly, a wider exposure of European art, culture and values to international audiences could raise interest, recognition and potentially lead to increased competitiveness.

Europe is in global competition for markets and investments, where industrial and service competitors use every available tool including cultural policy in their international promotion efforts. European research, in cooperation with cultural and creative sectors and other stakeholders, should contribute new knowledge as well as identifying ways of reinforcing common European action to promote Europe’ s culture, values and interests for the benefit of our societies and prosperity. It is important to assess the actions of competitors, evaluate the effectiveness of common European action and its potential in order to draw lessons for policy. Research should contribute to identifying ways of more effectively promoting common European interests at a global level, leveraging resources and forging closer cooperation between cultural, creative and economic partners.

**The role of perceptions, formed by traditions, values and beliefs, in shaping European societies and politics in the 21st century**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Analyse the different factors that form and change people’s perceptions, such as: beliefs, values, traditions, history, culture, gender, among others.
* Understand in which way these factors influence and change people’s perceptions.
* Apprehend the way perceptions shape European societies’ understanding of and reactions to the European project.
* Analyse the ways perceptions influence society’s response and preparedness during times of crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on post-crisis European cohesion.
* Provide recommendations to bring EU policy making closer to people with emphasis on young people’s values and behaviour in perceiving pressing social, economic and environmental challenges.

Scope:

Values, norms, traditions, beliefs, our historical past, mentalities, age or gender - to name just a few - shape our perceptions, the way we see our societies and the role of the individual, the state and the economy in it. This means that while speaking of the same subjects in this context, our underlying understanding of them might vary to a certain degree. This has caused misunderstandings and friction in the European integration process over time. While research has tackled various aspects of this topic, an in-depth investigation and analysis of the role all of these factors with a holistic approach on its impact on the European integration process should be further undertaken.

Proposals under this topic will identify and examine the factors that influence and change people’s perceptions of the European project over time, under different geographical, political or socio-economic circumstances. They should also research into the role of values and socio-political behaviour in perceiving and dealing with emergencies and crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Lessons learnt during the Covid-19 crisis could be used to provide policy scenarios for facing future crises and building resilient and sustainable post-crisis societies. Finally, proposals should investigate the role of perceptions in understanding and interacting with politics and political legitimacy in the EU. They should provide recommendations on how to address these different perceptions in the policy shaping and implementation of the EU integration process.

**Traditional crafts for the future: a new approach**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Revive, valorise and foster old craftsmen techniques and combine them with new and emerging cutting-edge technologies.
* Bring together the old traditional know how with new and/or digital technologies to develop improved and new products, services and professions.
* Set up platforms and develop courses for vocational training, methodologies, curricula and entrepreneurship skills to create jobs and revive enterprises, where tradition meets the future.
* Create sustainable relationships and networks between research and heritage sites and cultural institutions, regional and national authorities, enterprises and other relevant stakeholders, to promote innovation, jobs and growth.

Scope:

Traditional artefacts and the old craftsmen techniques are a significant part of our cultural heritage and arts. They showcase the interpenetrating relation between material culture and human beings producing or consuming it. Artefacts and traditional objects are cultural products as they store social, personal and cultural memory, and they enable the articulation of self-identity in symbolic ways. The transmission and reproduction of the traditional know-how is the “conditio sine qua none” for the safeguarding and valorising of these cultural products.

The goals of the manufacturing and crafts sector have changed over time. This puts at risk traditional craftsmen techniques which are in danger of disappearing, and with them important knowledge and know-how, on ancient techniques to produce and restore historic artefacts.

Combining old craftsmen techniques with cutting-edge new technologies opens up new dimensions and opportunities for the preservation and restoration of cultural goods as well as for new and high quality products and services on the market as has been the case with the cooperation of the traditional north Italian fabrics manufacturing and the European high-end fashion industry.

Proposals under this topic should address these challenges by understanding the techniques of traditional artefacts encompassing the full range of materials (stone, ceramic, metal, fabric, paper/papyrus, etc). R&I actions should aim at reproducing traditional artefacts, traditional techniques and know-how in large scale by combining old, traditional know-how with new, digital and other cutting-edge technologies. R&I initiatives should identify new areas of application and markets for professions combining traditional crafts with cutting-edge technologies. They should develop methodologies for combining these two approaches and bringing together all stakeholders concerned to set up clusters covering proposals for professional training, and platforms between i.a. researchers, craftsmen, enterprises and business innovators to bring new products and services on the market. This can include proposals for curricula for training in these new technologies, combining traditional skills with new technologies and entrepreneurship to succeed on the market, including specific business plans. The participation of enterprises, SMEs and CCIs is strongly encouraged to ensure appropriate and economically sustainable use of the new products.

**Towards a competitive, fair and sustainable European music ecosystem**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

This action will provide new/improved methodologies for capturing the economic and societal value of music. It should develop indicators to better detect the performance of the European music sector and its contribution to economic and social development as well as sustainability; promote standardised data collection about the music (sub-)sector(s) to measure the contribution of the EU music sector to the whole economy, the number of employed in the EU music sector, music consumption on live, broadcast and digital platforms; increase the transparency of the music business through better data provision, and provide an estimation of the impact of music participation to the society. It will also provide policymakers with effective tools for measuring and enhancing the impact of EU policy making, in the context of Music Moves Europe and beyond, on the music sector.

Scope:

Music has an important economic value, but also a fundamental societal impact, contributing to social development and wellbeing. This is particularly relevant in the case of big economic and social crisis, such as the recent one provoked by COVID-19. Of all the cultural and creative sectors, music has also been the one hit the most from the digital revolution, the reduction of physical sales and the concentration of digital distribution in few big players. Moreover, the music sector is subject to the fast-evolving consumer behaviours related to cultural content consumption and live performances.

At EU level, support for the music sector comes under the Music Moves Europe initiative (MME) along different strands (programme funding, policy cooperation, regulatory measures, dialogue). The lack of reliable and comparable data to develop a competitive, fair and sustainable European music ecosystem is an underlying issue. Therefore, proposals should assess and develop appropriate methodologies and perform quantitative, qualitative and statistical analyses at national and EU level to estimate the economic and the societal impact of the music sector.

Proposals should aim at improving statistical data and methods for capturing the economic impact of the music sector. In estimating the economic value of the sector, proposals should also elaborate on lacking definitions related to national and European repertoire and on methodologies allowing to include, on one side, the many professionals being micro enterprises (and therefore completely excluded from official statistics) and, on the other, big digital platforms, making music available for free via adds or selling of data, that are also not reflected in official European statistics. Proposals should also further research on the economy of the streaming models: while streaming (for free or via a subscription) services are becoming a main access point for music and are expected to grow even further in the years to come, their economic impact on the whole sector in the long term, in particular on the creators, is still uncertain. Proposals should also estimate the economic impact on the music sector of the evolution and future trends of social media platforms and new social media channels, as well as streaming of live music events and new forms of “home-made creation” production. Proposals should assess and develop appropriate methodologies to estimate the societal impact of music. They should map the various forms of music participation: playing, performing, creating and consuming music and their impact as a source of wellbeing across population segments. On the basis of innovative approaches and a representative geographic coverage across Europe, proposals should also explain how people engage with music in the age of social media, internet and television across different socio-economic groups.

**Increase the potential of the international competition of the European film making industry**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* New knowledge on the needs and developments of the EU filmmaking industry.
* Provide innovative ways for economic recovery of the sub-sectors affected by the economic recession and the COVID-19 crisis, as well as ways to prevent unemployment in the sector.
* Increase the EU competitiveness of the film making industry at the international arena.
* Provide evidence on the users/viewers preferences on film-making and on limitations to identify their preferences.
* Identify a methodology, which will better understand the users/viewers preferences on filmmaking.
* Promote the EU cultural heritage and cultural diversity.

Scope:

The European film making industry is a significant sector of the cultural and creative industries and an important element of European economic growth. Its presence at the international arena is dynamic, whilst in third market position encompassing a considerable number of small and medium-sized enterprises, which reap sizeable revenues to European GDP. However, the lack of large and vertically integrated groups, able to compete with international competitors, in combination with the nationally based companies, which have seriously affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, will make it difficult for many EU companies to remain in the film making internationally competitive industry.

Therefore, research is required to examine the state of the art of the European film making industry, in order to analyse limitations, to understand the needs and developments of the European film making industry and to assess potentialities for further development. Proposals should study the dynamic (e.g. activity, progress) of different sub-sectors of the film making industry, including the sub-sectors of pre-production, production, post-production and distribution, and analyse the reasons that some sub-sectors are less developed than others. In the research, elements such as geopolitical relationships should be taken also into consideration. A comparative assessment of the international competitiveness of the European film making industry with that of main competitors (such as the USA, China, India, etc.) should be developed.

Research should also identify how the Covid-19 pandemic, the counter measures and the economic recession have affected those sub-sectors and provide policy scenarios, on how the filmmaking sector could face in short-term the impacts of an economic recession/crisis, in a cost efficient and effective manner and by providing fair working conditions. Proposals should also investigate the way that the filmmaking sector can be organized to afford efficiently future economic recession/crisis.

Evidence on the users/viewers preferences on film-making and on limitations to identify their preferences should be provided, while the proposals should identify a methodology which will also assess the users/viewers preferences on filmmaking. Proposals should not concentrate only on the activity of cinematography but should take into consideration the wide domain of filmmaking, including TV, documentary, animation, etc. Proposals should provide policy scenarios with recommendations for the increase the EU competitiveness of film making industry at the international arena.

**Destination 3 – Innovative Research on Social and Economic Transformations**

Europe is being transformed by changes that impact on the livelihoods and wellbeing of its citizens. Demographic changes, technological advancements and automation, the transition to a low carbon economy and globalisation all pose multidimensional social and economic challenges. At the same time, there has been an increase in inequality and labour market polarisation, and a slowdown in convergence in income and employment in most European countries. Inequalities threaten social and territorial cohesion and economic growth. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic has magnified the pervasive inequalities across European societies, with significant differences in the way losses and costs of the Covid-19 pandemic and the crisis that followed were distributed in society.

Population ageing risks increasing social protection spending on pensions, health and long-term care and restrict the capacity of the redistributive system to reduce inequality. Policies need to support a transition towards more environmentally-friendly ways of producing and providing services; where some regions and individuals may be affected and left behind by this transition, social protection must step in and make sure that essential services are maintained. Moreover, mitigation strategies are essential to make sure that the mobility of individuals who leave such areas, regions or countries is positive for all involved, and does not contribute to deepening the divide between regions or countries.

Education and training are key long-term factors in preventing and reversing inequalities and promoting equal opportunities, inclusion and social mobility. However, the educational outcomes of younger generations are still determined to a large extent by the socio-economic background of their parents rather than by their own potential. Promoting and ensuring inclusion and equity in education and training is thus fundamental in breaking these patterns.

In this context, it will be important to also reflect on the nature of economic growth and the need to better capture the different dimensions of social progress. It is increasingly important to distinguish between the different purposes of measurement: economic activity, social welfare, and sustainability and to develop relevant indicators.

High levels of inequalities have negative effects on social cohesion across Europe. This becomes even more challenging in regards to migrants and their integration in European societies. Migration has become a crucial issue for Europe, one that is likely to dominate policy and political agendas for many years to come. Migration is a challenge requiring comprehensive and coordinated European responses, both inside and outside the EU, involving Member States, EU actors, as well as local and regional authorities, civil society organisations and economic and social partners. The task of research is to better understand migration in a global and EU context and assist in its governance and enhance integration. It can enhance policies by providing evidence on the causes and consequences of the phenomena and facilitate timely response by identifying trends and suggesting possible policy solutions. Research should contribute to integration, through dispelling myths and biases.

The implementation of the research activities in the two calls of this Intervention Area will contribute to a comprehensive European strategy for inclusive growth, ensuring no one is left behind, including through the accumulation and preservation of human capital in the face of old and new risks. It will equally support productivity gains and their fair distribution, as well as boosting social and economic resilience that is essential to face situations of crisis such as in the case of Covid-19. Activities will support the governance of migration and the integration of migrants and populations of immigrant background. They will contribute to EU migration and mobility policies, both internal and external. The overall knowledge generated will feed into the design of policy strategies in line with the above mentioned objectives and will facilitate the assessment of policy needs and outcomes in the field of the societal and economic transformations.

The Intervention Area calls for proposals that may help in reaching these key strategic policy objectives in the EU. It invites proposals to do so by integrating feedback loops with stakeholders and policymakers that may help in developing suggestions and recommendations throughout their lifecycles. These proposals should take into consideration the stakeholders associated to the decisions that are suggested, and should also account for the context in which decisions are made. Therefore, in order to maximize and facilitate the uptake of recommendations in policy, they should include analyses of political and financial trade-offs associated to the recommendations produced, reflecting also on contextual changes needed to implement proposals developed.

Expected impacts:

Proposals for topics under this Destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to the following targeted expected impacts of the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan:

- Inclusive growth is boosted through evidence based policies for enhancing employment, education, social agenda and tackling inequalities.

- Social and economic sustainability are strengthened through a better understanding of the social, ethical, political and economic impacts of drivers of change (technology, globalisation, demographics, mobility and migration).

The following calls in this Work Programme contribute to this Destination:

**Call 1: Inclusiveness in times of change (2021)**

**Estimates and conditions of irregular migrants in Europe**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: CSA and RIA**

**CSA**

Expected outcomes:

* Enhance EU migration governance by providing rigorous estimates on irregular migrants in Europe, including those working.
* Enhance statistics and data on migration by developing methodologies to estimate irregular migrants across different EU legislative and statistical contexts.
* Establish a pan-European network able to sustain and update estimates through time.
* Propose EU and context specific policy measures by assessing viability, costs and benefits of regularisation programs.

Scope:

Irregular migrants are, by definition, difficult to capture in population statistics. As such, it remains unknown how many irregular migrants are in the EU and in the various MS today. This is a challenge given that policymakers have limited capacity to develop policies targeted to a group of people that is ill defined. This is even more challenging in situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, given the difficulties in controlling for a sizeable part of population ‘in the shadows’.

Proposals should comparatively assess legal frameworks across the EU, which determine the irregular status of migrants. It should also evaluate this against existing statistics, analysing who is counted as regular, who as irregular and consequent discrepancies in datasets across Europe resulting from different methodologies and policy frameworks. Thereby, it should determine common methodologies to address such issues, and use available datasets to estimate number of irregular migrants residing in Member States. It should focus on at least 10 EU countries.

Proposals should also build a network of stakeholders from different national contexts, including, but not limited to, researchers, policymakers, civil society and employers. This network should develop an overview of existing knowledge on regularisation schemes for irregular migrants, presenting policy suggestions by identifying what works and what does not. In doing so, it should identify what financial and political costs are associated with the options suggested.

**RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Develop new knowledge on the conditions of irregular migrants in the EU and their activities.
* Enhance EU migration governance by appraising policy responses to irregular migration management and their effect.
* Propose policy measures to uphold basic rights of migrants and needs of host communities.
* Provide tools and options for enhancing the protection of migrants, and identify to what extent sectors of the economy rely on their work.

Scope:

Irregular arrivals to the EU have been significant in the past years. Only a few of those migrants have been given a legal status to reside in countries of destination. As return rates also remain low, it is evident that many migrants remain in irregular status in the EU. This is problematic for the migrants, who are left without rights and therefore are easily exploitable, and it is problematic for the host country, as irregular migrants participate in the black market and largely remain outside of integration programs to enhance social cohesion.

Proposals should analyse the conditions of irregular migrants in the EU. Attention should be paid to access to basic services and rights, as well as their activities and participation in (informal) labour markets. It should develop comparative analyses across the EU Member States as regards these conditions and activities. Proposals should also include an analyses of legislative frameworks aimed to protect the rights of irregular migrants and/or sanction exploitative employers. In analysing the activities and work of irregular migrants, proposals are also encouraged to analyse the reliance of those particular sectors on this irregular workforce, its causes and consequences.

Proposals should also consider the role and needs of host communities vis-à-vis the presence and needs of irregular migrants living without access to basic rights. They should provide tools and options for enhancing the protection of migrants, and identify to what extent sectors of the economy rely on their work.

**Providing support in a changing world of work and social protection**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* The labour market impacts of demographic changes, new forms of work, globalisation and digitalisation on the European welfare systems, are well understood;
* Welfare systems can be adapted in a way that they contribute to reducing socio-economic inequalities, protecting people from various forms of hardship and enabling atypical workers and the self-employed to transition towards more stable work relationships, while acting as an important catalyst for economic prosperity.
* Activities should draw lessons from recent policy interventions in a contextual manner and propose adjustment measures.

Scope:

Welfare states play an integral role in reducing socio-economic inequalities, protecting people from various forms of hardship (such as unemployment and ill health) and enabling atypical workers and the self-employed to transition towards more stable work relationships. They are also an important catalyst for economic prosperity. On the medium term however, Europe is expected to face intense demographic changes coupled with globalisation and digitalisation, all of which affecting the welfare state. At the same time, new forms of work are arising, and these risk creating jobs that contribute less to and are less protected by the welfare state.

To ensure that welfare systems are adapted accordingly and continue to meet the above mentioned goals, research that investigates and provides understanding about the impact of such changes on the European welfare systems, is therefore necessary.

Activities could focus on the interaction between welfare policies and labour market aspects of demographic change (such as ageing, changes in household patterns, evolution of gender roles, etc.), globalisation (such as trade liberalisation, immigration, tax competition, etc.) and / or digitalisation (such as task automation, increased career heterogeneity, job transitioning, atypical forms of work, need for reskilling and upskilling, etc.). More specifically, they could look at the impact of an ageing population on public revenues and expenditure, while exploring alternative tax structures and revenue sources implementable in an increasingly globalised economy. They could also investigate the impact of increasing job transitions on social security systems, economic competitiveness and the overall wellbeing of concerned individuals; explore the ways in which market liberalisation and digitalisation should be shaped to enable transitions into decent work and increased socio-economic security, etc.

Where relevant, activities should draw lessons from recent policy interventions in a contextual manner and propose adjustment measures.

**Socio Economic effects of ageing societies**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Analyse the impact of ageing societies on productivity, society, employment (by gender, sector, occupational group and skills needed), investment, growth, healthcare systems and public finance sustainability in the medium and long term, while maintaining service adequacy.
* Propose policy measures to reap the benefits from these developments and tackle the hurdles linked with ageing including (but not limited to), fertility, migration, active ageing, upskilling and reskilling policies.

Scope:

Proposals should analyse the changing demographic profile of Europe, paying attention to the heterogeneous trends and developments in the different Member States. The project should try to assess how this change will affect consumption, production, and opportunities.

Projects should consider the structural changes required to adapt in the medium term to ageing societies. It should analyse the impact of demographic change on skills availability and needs, assessing the risk of older aged workers to become obsolescent in a fast changing globalised, digitalised and automated environment, against the need of investing in them to lengthen the working life and try to maintain EU high levels of productivity. In this context, projects should also consider how recruiting foreign labour may mitigate the shortages in sectors of the economy, and assess the sustainability of this against the needs of EU Member States.

Projects should consider the opportunities of the ‘silver economy’, not only in terms of consumption of goods and services directed to the older age population, but also in terms of production. This entails considering the potential of older people for generating new economic opportunities through their work, the conditions by which older people are likely to want to work for longer, and the impact of this on the sustainability of the silver economy.

Together with considering such medium term dynamics, proposals are also asked to consider the longer term implication of ageing societies, and its mitigating factors. Fertility should be considered, analysing the impact of family policies and conditions under which both men are women are more likely to have children. Proposals could also look at the conditions that facilitate having the number of children that Europeans desire.

Proposals should develop recommendations on how societies need to cope with ageing in the short and medium term, with the reforms needed to ripen the economic benefits and limit the negative consequences. They should also consider how to do this while developing a long-term perspective aimed at increasing the EU’s human capital.

**Determining key drivers of inequality trends**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Analyse the main drivers of inequality trends, considering both inequality of opportunity and wealth inequality, and identify policy factors for tackling them.
* Identify and analyse different drivers of inequalities at the local, regional, national and supranational level and identify the governance levels best based to act.
* Produce research evidence, guidance and recommendations for policy-makers, social partners and stakeholders to tackle unsustainable trends and reverse inequalities.

Scope:

In the light of increasing economic inequalities and regional disparities in terms of both income and wealth, research should analyse the main reasons for the increasing inequalities reported in the last decades worldwide and, thereby, identify whether this is primarily policy driven and/or the result of different factors related to globalisation and technological innovations. More specifically, research should examine whether inequality dynamics are determined by different trends:

(1) pre-market processes (unequal access to education and training at all levels / employment counselling)

(2) in-market processes (labour participation, capital and goods market structure; increasing relevance of superstar firms; globalized value chains (that will be disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and may impact on inequality dynamics – e.g. relocation of offshoring activities, shorter value chains, etc.) and unequal allocation of labour on a global scale)

(3)) or post-market processes (tax-benefit policies)

Research should also identify means to reverse the trends of increasing inequalities. Part of the reasons for the rising inequalities may come from ineffective labour markets. Research should therefore also analyse the main features and institutional set up determining effective and well-performing labour markets, also with the view to help accelerating labour market and economic convergence within Member States and across EU Member States.

Research should consider and advise how current social and economic transformations should be best steered, so that they are fair and socially just, and do not further increase existing inequalities or create new ones. This could include a focus on the COVID-19 economic crisis, with its unequal distribution of those suffering the most. The role of the middle-class could also be analysed.

**Addressing poor learning outcomes in basic skills and early school leaving at national, regional and local level in Europe**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

The action will support research and policy action to address low-achievement in basic skills as well as in digital skills, prevent school dropout, thereby increasing social upward mobility in Europe.

* Firstly, the action will examine the results in terms of the quality of learning outcomes for secondary school pupils and their determinants, including the influence of high quality early childhood education (ECEC).
* Secondly, the action will analyse possible policy avenues to address underachievement, evaluate successful and less successful policies and practices, and mobilise stakeholders to design innovative policy solutions, which can be scalable and replicable by other projects and stakeholders.
* Finally, the challenge of underachievement will also be analysed in relation to school dropout mentioned above.

Scope:

The research will concentrate on the socio-economic, cognitive, cultural, linguistic and well-being determinants and root causes of underachievement and school dropout at primary, secondary and post-secondary levels of education. This will enable the formulation of novel policy measures and targeted actions aimed at reducing the compounded impact on socio-economic fairness and upward inter-generational mobility in Europe.

The RIA will develop a specific diagnosis and targeted methodologies for combatting persistent negative trends in learning outcomes in Europe, by devising strategies and policy recommendations to improve student proficiency in reading, mathematics and science, while also looking at the effects of tracking between different educational pathways. It will provide a comparative assessment of existing policies targeting the achievement gap. It will focus especially on the socio-economic background of multi-disadvantaged learners and their educational outcomes, as well as the issue of persons not in education, employment or training (NEETs). Finally, the research will involve relevant educational stakeholders.

**Integration of emerging new technologies into education and training**

**Year of the topic: 2021**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* The research will increase the shared critical understanding of the potential, opportunities, barriers and risks of using emerging technologies for teaching and learning.
* It will support education and training systems with research on how to adapt and mainstream the use of digitally enhanced pedagogies in order to augment and extend learning.
* Finally, it will share evidence and good practice on equipping teachers, trainers, educational leaders and learners with the skills they need to use technology in creative, critical and competent ways.

Scope:

The RIA will support the purposeful and pedagogical use of emerging technologies, (including applications of AI, VR and AR) in education and training in order to foster 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity, and allow more personalized and flexible ways of learning (including online and blended delivery). Research should focus on how different learners experience and benefit, or are excluded from, digitally enhanced learning (e.g. male and female students, students of a migrant background, students with disabilities, urban and rural population, young learners and adults, etc.). It will also examine the resilience and the capacity for effective mass-deployment of e-learning capabilities in cases of crises, major emergencies such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, disruptive events as well as man-made or natural disasters.

The action will identify barriers, enablers and framework conditions for successfully embedding emerging technologies in educational practices, in sustainable and ecologically responsible ways, addressing accessibility in an inclusive manner, and how to move from small-scale projects and pilots to mainstream implementation and adoption. The ethical use of data generated by digital learning platforms and tools should be a particular focus.

It will also analyse the shifting role of teachers, trainers and educational leaders in the digital transition in education and training and their training needs (including digital and leadership skills): how can educators be actively involved in shaping and co-designing education and training tech products and tools and how can Initial Teacher Education institutions be supported in innovating their programmes for pre-service teachers in order to foster their digital competence and confidence.

**Towards a new normal? Employment and social impacts of changing supply chains and declining trade intensities**

**Year of the topic:** 2021

Expected outcomes:

* Develop knowledge on the ongoing and expected changes and disruptions in trade patterns, global value chains and production networks and identify innovative ways to maximise the potential and mitigate any adverse impacts of changes in global value chains and international trade patterns on employment, job quality, income inequalities and social cohesion.
* Assess the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and related public health crisis on global value chains, production networks and security of supplies, and their short- and longer-term implications for employment and social resilience in the EU.
* Policy recommendations for value chain integration, production networks and security of supplies to strengthen social resilience, foster sustainable employment creation in the EU and mitigate the impacts of future trade and value chains disruptions on EU employment.
* Provide policy scenarios for future value chain developments and level playing field trade relations, which will ensure security of strategic supplies and will be in line with the EU’s policy priorities of social resilience and the twin (digital and green) transition.
* Produce new, innovative methodologies and ways for assessing and monitoring the level playing field developments in trade and value chains in the EU.

Scope:

Globalization has expanded the value chains and shifted the trade patterns and dynamics. On the one hand, the fall of transportation costs, the accelerating digitalisation and the reduction of obstacles to international trade have facilitated the integration of EU companies in global value chains and supported job creation. On the other hand, the profound transformations of global value chains, trade and production networks have raised significant social, economic and environmental challenges, including increasing divergence in productivity and labour market effects in the EU, slow progress towards resource-efficiency and decarbonisation, and lack of security of and access to strategic supplies.

Research should first conceptualise the actual global and sectoral trade patterns, value chains and production networks in light of the EU’s long-term policy priorities of social resilience and competitive sustainability. It should then analyse the impacts of different trade patterns, value chains and production networks on t EU value added, labour market, income inequalities and social cohesion. Research should develop a comparative assessment with the main strategic partners and provide innovative, forward-looking policy scenarios and recommendations for future global value chains, trade patterns and trade intensities, which will ensure security of strategic supplies, promote a high level of employment and tackle income inequalities in the EU, while safeguarding job quality and social and territorial cohesion. The policy scenarios and recommendations should focus on EU, national and sectoral strategies, policy measures and targeted actions aimed at shaping fair, inclusive and sustainable trade patterns, value chains and production networks. The forward-looking policy scenarios and recommendations should be coherent with the EU long-term policy priorities of social resilience and competitive sustainability.

The proposals should take into consideration the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the related public health crisis on trade patterns and global value chains as well as the impacts of international trade disruptions, due to the lockdown measures, on added value, EU employment, job quality, income inequality and social cohesion.

Proposals will further develop innovative methodologies for assessing and monitoring, quantitatively and qualitatively, level playing field developments in trade, value chains and employment. The innovative methodologies should also cover level playing field developments in key policy areas of taxation, competition and social policies.

The research will cover multi-disciplinary and target multi-dimensional aspects, developing cross-sectoral and forward-looking responses, involving external stakeholders and experts, including European social partners, regional and national authorities and international trade, labour market and social policy experts.

**Call 2: A sustainable future for Europe (2022)**

**Public policies and indicators for social well-being and sustainable development**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* An empirical analysis of different processes of economic growth, identifying the extent to which they are inclusive and sustainable (determinants of social and economic inclusion and inequalities);
* A theoretical assessment of the linkages between the standard economic growth paradigm and the dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental);
* Pave out possible avenues for the taking up of a novel growth framework to support inclusive and sustainable policies.

Scope:

The RIA will support the transition towards a “sustainability paradigm”, identifying the socio-economic inequalities and the distribution of benefits of the economic growth between individuals. The action shall use macro and or micro data to identify the distributive effects of economic growth in terms of income and wealth, identifying which population groups benefitted or not and the related determinants. Proposals shall need to cover a broad range of European countries (including the regional dimension where appropriate), as well as a sufficient number of non-European countries (e.g. from Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America) for ensuring an international comparison of the analysis. The analysis may take into account the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Then, research efforts will identify and propose indicators to measure, accounting also for the measurement framework in the beyond GDP approaches. In particular, proposals shall reconcile the new sustainable development goals (no poverty, environmental and climate hazards, societal cohesion and inclusion, human well-being) with the standard framework (productivity and consumption as the main objectives and metrics of economic growth) improving the critical understanding of the trade-offs and synergies, which includes the development of indicators for that purpose. Is it possible to reconcile sustainability targets with productivity growth? How is social and economic inclusion (and inequality) affected?

Finally, it will assess possible ways to adopt such new economic development framework identifying policy options to address the trade-offs and synergies for the transition towards a sustainable and competitive development path (i.e. competitive sustainability), ensuring economic and social inclusion for higher resilient societies.

**The impact of spatial mobility on EU demographics, society and labour market**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type (RIA)**

Expected outcomes:

* Analyse the demographic, economic, and social effects of emigration in European countries, from a sending and receiving side
* Envisage policies that counter brain drain and labour exploitation phenomena and enhance human capital joint building
* Identify effective policies to promote rural development and sustainability and address regional inequalities.

Scope:

Proposals should analyse drivers and effects of demographically declining and left behind areas in the EU. They could develop a typology of such areas that may help in developing policies best aligned with the needs of different areas. Projects should focus in particular on spatial mobility, including, but not limited to, urban-rural, inter-regional and intra-EU mobility, and the interactions of different policies affecting these flows. The proposals should assess the pros and cons of spatial mobility from an individual and administrative perspective (both sending and receiving) so to provide a new framework to understand these flows. They should also include considerations on the disruption caused by the COVID-19 emergency and its impact on European borders and freedom of movement, and the circulation of workers in the EU.

Proposals are strongly encouraged to analyse the relation between freedom of movement, within or between EU Member States, and the development of both sending and receiving areas, taking into account demographic trends and ageing societies. It could focus on practices that lead to synergetic benefits for both areas concerned, going beyond a framework of mobility with winners and losers. This could include a focus on the return of individuals to their place and/or country of origin, on the conditions upon which this occurs and to the benefits that this may lead to. Proposals could also consider determinants of immobility, and study patterns, drivers and effects of mobility in conjuncture to analyses of those individuals that under the same circumstances decide not to move. Projects analysing these elements should also consider the impact of such forms of mobility for the livelihoods of individuals moving.

Projects should therefore develop proposals for developing policies that help harnessing the positive elements of mobility and may limit the negative effects. They should do so considering the different types of areas of origin, and catering for the different needs that these may have. Projects should select cases from the EU, and comparative research across cases is highly encouraged.

**Return and readmission of irregular migrants in the EU**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type (RIA)**

Expected outcomes:

* Support EU migration governance by assessing barriers and enablers of its return and readmission policy.
* Suggest avenues for international cooperation on migration between the EU, its Member States, and countries of origin and transit of migrants.
* Consider alternatives to returning migrants to countries of origin and transit.
* Develop recommendations based on analyses of stakeholders involved and financial and political costs associated to them.
* Develop innovative methodologies to analyse and evaluate negotiation strategies and positions of international actors on migration.

Scope:

Proposals should appraise and consider the evidence base behind the drivers of the EU’s return and readmission policies. It could consider to what extent public attitudes to migration are susceptible to change in relation to success or failure in return and readmission policies. It could also consider to what extent return policies are needed to deter further migration, and the relation between such policies and the drivers of migration.

Proposals should consider negotiations between the EU and countries of origin and transit, and analyse the barriers and enablers to successful agreements. It should build a typology of reasons that limit the capacity of origin and transit countries to cooperate and engage in return policies. Proposals could also include considerations of different cooperation outcomes in bilateral relations compared to EU wide relations on return. Proposals could also analyse the role played by diaspora groups in shaping the positions of their countries of origin, as well as the role played by the civil society. Proposals should therefore analyse the political construction of discourses on return in non-EU countries, and consider the way these impact on the positions of their governments. These analyses should shed light on the interdependencies between the different policy domains that are increasingly integrated in return and readmission policy.

Proposals should consider policies implemented for those who cannot be returned, and bring forward alternatives. Proposals should also consider how return and readmission policies uphold the rights of migrants. In bringing forward such suggestions, proposals should specify actors involved in their implementation and the financial and political costs associated to this.

**Decision-making processes of (aspiring) migrants**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type (RIA)**

Expected outcomes:

* Enhance EU migration policy by shedding light on micro- and meso-level drivers of migration.
* Assess extent to which policies take into account behaviours of migrants when aiming at regulating migration.
* Show how migration decisions change along the journey, and at what stage policies are more likely to play a role in shaping migration outcomes.

Scope:

Studies on macro-level determinants of migration have linked structural factors and a number of social processes to migration outcomes. However, there is a scarcity of research that considers the way in which meso-social and micro-individual levels interact and play a role in shaping decisions to migrate, or not.

Proposals should develop analyses of decisions taken by individuals to stay in their place of origin (village, city, country and region) or to leave. It should therefore consider the micro-level of decision-making, and could also consider the timing of such decisions and the drivers of aspiration to migrate or lack thereof.

Proposals could also combine such micro-level analyses with meso-level considerations of the context in which such decisions are formed. This may take stock of the available literature on the role family households play in shaping decisions to migrate, but is encouraged to go beyond, looking at local, regional and national narratives and cultures and the way in which they influence such decisions.

Proposals should also consider how decisions to migrate are dynamic and adapt to different contexts. In such sequence of decisions, different drivers of decision-making may intervene at the different phases of the migration cycles, which projects should consider. This may include the role played by the availability, or lack of, legal channels for migration, when opting for an irregular alternative.

The analyses developed should shed light on the capacity of migration policies to be effective, and at what stage of the migration journey this occurs or may occur. Analyses could also evaluate the extent to which policies implemented are centred on behaviours of migrants. Projects are strongly encouraged to develop innovative methodologies, including behavioural approaches to studies of individual decision-making, and to focus on the African continent in selecting cases.

**Gender and social, economic and cultural empowerment**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Achieve a better understanding of gendered power relations across the social and economic spheres, taking into account intersections between gender and other social categories such as ethnicity, social origin, disability, and sexual orientation, and the cumulative effects of multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantages. The research could also look at the role of education in perpetuating or breaking stereotypes.
* Help reverse socio-economic and cultural inequalities and promote gender equality, thus supporting the realisation of the global 2030 Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Scope:

The domain of gender and power scores the lowest across all six domains in [EIGE’s Gender Equality Index 2019](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2019/domain/power) with an EU average of only 51.9 out of 100, indicating that full gender equality in the distribution and concentration of power in all political, social and economic spheres is far from being realised. Gendered power relations do not only concern decision-making and politics, but are also reflected in our everyday lives, including in the workplace, academia, arts and culture, the private and public spheres, education and early-childhood socialisation.

Projects are expected to address the following:

* Develop a theoretical framework to understand the formation and structure of gendered power hierarchies leading to systematic and structural forms of discriminations, social and economic inequalities and gender-based violence. This should address underlying causes related to society’s perception and construction of gender norms, masculinities and femininities, also considering how intersectionality of gender with, e.g., ethnicity, social origin, disability, sexual orientation, impacts one’s position and rights in society and social hierarchy, as well as one’s life and career choices.
* Analyse the interrelations between gender and power, and barriers to gender equality, in different social and economic issues including, inter alia: policy- and decision-making, labour market and the gender pay gap, workplace and work-life balance arrangements, gender-based and domestic violence, reproductive rights, cultural representations and roles, and education. Particular attention should be paid to the contexts of economic crisis, environmental transition, future of work, and pandemics.
* Propose concrete, practical solutions, innovative tools and policy responses to dismantle structural and systematic roots of unequal power distribution between women and men on all levels and promote women’s social and economic empowerment.

**Inclusive labour market with regard to disability, age, gender and racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religious belief and its impact on inequalities**

**Year of the topic: 2022**

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Develop innovative policy approaches to promote inclusion, inclusiveness and quality employment of the considered groups.
* Help develop evidence-based policy responses to fight discrimination and promote inclusion and upward convergence in employment.
* Reduction of employment gaps between vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and those without.
* Identify and compare the usefulness of different options for policies and measures.

Scope:

New and innovative ways of integration into the labour market of the most vulnerable groups need to be explored and tested with the objective to reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion.

Research should identify barriers for increasing inclusiveness in the labour market (covering elements such as disability, age, gender, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religious belief) with regard to both quantity and quality of employment and taking a holistic approach (e.g. increasing accessibility across-the-board; availability of assistive technologies, providing reasonable accommodation and supported employment for persons with disabilities; tackling economic, employment and welfare inequality by gender and vulnerable group, and considering also causes originating in the education system).

Research should address the disadvantages and barriers faced and collect data on measures to improve the situation and provide a thorough analysis of their impact. For example, in the case of people with disabilities, it could take stock of the reasonable accommodation tools and support provided across Member States to compile a comprehensive catalogue. It could also include a focus on ethnic/racial discrimination at times of pandemics such as COVID-19, and longer-term implications.

Research should also involve employers, including SMEs, and address their potential concerns. Civil society organisations representing those vulnerable groups, as well as trade unions could be also involved. The role of educational institutions, of the family and family associations, supporting the most vulnerable groups in their way towards inclusion in the labour market, could be considered.

Research could also address the issue of social protection. For example, proposals could consider the in and out of employment and the possible compatibility with other benefits, such as disability benefits avoiding the benefit trap.

**Conditions for successful development of firm-, occupation- and sector-specific skills**

**Year of the topic:** 2022

**Action type: RIA**

Expected outcomes:

* Enable policymakers through innovative analysis to reduce skills gaps and mismatches between skills and jobs, thereby supporting the diffusion and adoption of innovation as well as the economic growth and the increase of wages and profits.
* Support the objectives of the Updated Skills Agenda for Europe as regards Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Adult Learning (AL).

Scope:

40% of businesses in the EU report difficulties finding staff with adequate skills and consider the lack of skilled workers, as one of their biggest challenge. At the same time, 22% of young workers in the EU are overqualified and 28% face horizontal skills mismatch. These gaps and mismatches hinder the diffusion and adoption of innovation, as well as the economic growth, having a serious impact on workers and wages as well as on businesses and profits.

The Updated Skills Agenda for Europe recognises the importance played by VET and AL in ensuring that people have the right skills to access and progress in the labour market throughout life. To reduce skill gaps and mismatches in an informed manner, innovative research activities are needed that focus on understanding them both from the supply and demand side. Such activities should look into the roles played by individuals, public and private employers, skills-development institutions and policy frameworks.

Activities could cover aspects such as the coordination, cost sharing and financing instruments, looking into which instruments lead to which outcomes, and why; the role of employers and work places in the provision of VET and AL; their involvement in defining curricula and organising training; the role of personal attitudes and structural factors in pursuing adult education; the extent to which training balances the provision of general, job-related and personal development skills; the opportunities of informal learning and skills formation provided by workplaces; the coordination at local level, between VET institutions, employers, R&I agencies or other public institutions; the interaction of skills development systems and institutions with other domains, in particular innovation and industrial policies, etc.

Where possible and relevant, research should draw lessons from recent policy interventions in a contextual manner, and propose adjustment measures.

1. See W. Merkel, *Past, Present and Future of Democracy - Policy Review,* 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)