

10 October 2018

**Dear President Tusk,
Dear President Juncker,
Dear First Vice-President Timmermans,**

A call of civil society organisations for more ambitious Rights and Values Programme

The future of Europe will depend on attitudes of ordinary citizens. These attitudes will determine what kind of policies are possible in Brussels and decide about the survival of the European project. In recent months numerous actors have called on the Union to establish an instrument supporting Civil Society Organizations promoting European values (enshrined in Article 2 of the EU Treaty) at the local, national and transnational level. This decentralized empowerment of the pro-European majority of citizens could become one of the most effective countermeasures of the Union against the erosion of its values.

The call was supported in January 2018 by an Appeal of 80 NGOs and CSO networks from 22 EU countries and by the European Parliament in its Resolution on a “European Values Instrument” of 14 April 2018.

The “Rights and Values Programme”, proposed by the Commission in response to this call, combines an excellent problem diagnosis with disappointing substance. In its current form, the Programme has as good as no chance to have a meaningful impact on protecting European values, because:

- Its **scope** shuts out from funding NGOs which promote European values of Article 2 not falling under specific EU legislation, as well as NGOs on the local and national level
- Its **rules of access** effectively shut out the vast majority of grassroots organizations due to restrictive eligibility, co-funding, application and reporting criteria
- Its **budget** of 641 million Euros is not only insufficient given the scale of the challenge to European values, but will also be spread over a vast range of beneficiaries, including governments, firms, third countries and international organizations. Just 47 million Euros have been earmarked for NGOs from EU member states. These sums, divided by 27 member states and 7 years, cannot make any substantial difference.

Therefore we call on the EU institutions to amend this proposal along the lines of the Resolution of the European Parliament on the “European Values Instrument” (14 April 2018) and the Appeal of cross-European NGOs and CSO networks (January 2018).

First, to become an effective instrument for promoting and protecting European values, the “Rights and Values Programme” should foresee a **broader scope**, encompassing NGOs working on the promotion of European values of Article 2 of the EU Treaty at the local, national and transnational levels.

Secondly, its **rules of access** should be maximally simplified, so that even smaller grassroots organizations get a realistic chance to apply. This could be done by applying the new Financial Regulation with the goal of maximizing accessibility, and by considering the use of re-granting schemes such as the NGO programmes of EEA/Norway Grants.

Finally, we recommend a simple rule regarding the **budget**: the EU should spend on value-promotion inside the Union as much as it spends on this goal in third countries. This implies an overall budget of the “Rights and Values Programme” of 1.4 to 2 billion Euros over 7 years. Moreover, a substantial part of this sum should be devoted for supporting Civil Society Organizations.

In view of deeply concerning political trends, the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework may represent the last chance to make such a serious investment in upholding core European values.

Therefore we count on your support.

List of signatories:

Klagsverband zur Durchsetzung der Rechte von Diskriminierungsopfern	Austria	Vienna
Association Marcel Hicter pour la Démocratie Culturelle	Belgium	Brussels
Community Foundation West Flanders Streekfonds West-Vlaanderen	Belgium	Kortrijk
Donors and Foundations Networks Europe (DAFNE)	Belgium	Brussels
European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)	Belgium	Brussels
European Foundation Centre Aisbl	Belgium	Brussels
Global Fund for Community Foundations	Belgium	Brussels
Les Fondations.be, Fédération Belge des Fondations Philanthropiques	Belgium	Brussels
Quindo vzw	Belgium	Kortrijk
"Roms Coppersmiths" Shoumen	Bulgaria	Shumen
Association of Parks in Bulgaria (For The Nature Coalition)	Bulgaria	Sofia
BlueLink Foundation	Bulgaria	Sofia
Bulgarian Association for the Promotion of Citizens' Initiative (BSNGI)	Bulgaria	Burgas
Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law	Bulgaria	Sofia
Bulgarian Donors' Forum	Bulgaria	Sofia
Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives Foundation (BILI)	Bulgaria	Sofia
Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance "Amalipe"	Bulgaria	Veliko Tarnovo
CHOVEKOLUBIE Association	Bulgaria	Pazardjik
Citizen Participation Forum	Bulgaria	Sofia
Institute for Direct Democracy Foundation	Bulgaria	Sofia
Multi Kulti Collective	Bulgaria	Sofia
National Network for Children	Bulgaria	Sofia,
Open Society Foundation	Bulgaria	Sofia
Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation	Bulgaria	Sofia

Association for Independent Media Culture / Udruga za nezavisnu medijsku kulturu	Croatia	Zagreb
B.a.B.e.	Croatia	Zagreb
Centar za mirovne studije	Croatia	Zagreb
Center for Civil Initiatives	Croatia	Poreč
Civil Rights Project Sisak	Croatia	Sisak
Croatian Youth Network/Mreža mladih Hrvatske	Croatia	Zagreb
Documenta - Center for Dealing with the Past	Croatia	Zagreb
GONG	Croatia	Zagreb
Information Legal Centre	Croatia	Slavonski Brod
Rainbow Families Croatia	Croatia	Zagreb
Udruga Eko-Zadar	Croatia	Zadar
Udruga za promicanje ekološke proizvodnje hrane, zaštite okoliša i održivog razvoja "Eko-Zadar"	Croatia	Zadar
CESI - Center for Education, Counselling and Research	Croatia	Zagreb
PUŽ	Croatia	Zagreb
Antikomplex z.s.	Czechia	Prague
EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy	Czechia	Prague
Open Society Fund Prague	Czechia	Prague
Open Estonia Foundation	Estonia	Tallinn
Centre français des Fonds et Fondations	France	Paris
Association of German Foundations	Germany	Berlin
European Exchange	Germany	Berlin
MEMORIAL Deutschland e. V.	Germany	Berlin
RUSMPI Institute on Migration Policy	Germany	Berlin
Euromaidan NRW e.V.	Germany	Bonn
Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU	Finland	Helsinki
Civil Kollégium Alapítvány (Civil College Foundation)	Hungary	Kunszentmiklós
Hungarian Helsinki Committee	Hungary	Budapest
K-Monitor Association	Hungary	Budapest
Ökotárs - Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation	Hungary	Budapest
Acri-Associazione di Fondazioni e di casse di risparmio	Italy	Roma
Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana (ARCI)	Italy	Rome
Memorial Italia	Italy	Milan
Centre for Public Policy Providus	Latvia	Riga
Civic Alliance-Latvia	Latvia	Riga

European Movement - Latvia	Latvia	Riga
Foundation for an Open Society DOTS	Latvia	Riga
Eiropas Kustība Latvijā (European Movement - Latvia)	Latvia	Riga
Kauno bendruomeniu centru asociacija/ Association of Kaunas Communities Centers	Lithuania	Kaunas
NGO Law Institute	Lithuania	Vilnius
Open Lithuania Foundation	Lithuania	Vlinus
Pilietinės visuomenės institutas (Civil Society Institute), Lithuania	Lithuania	Vilnius
Tolerant Youth Association	Lithuania	Vilnius
Kaimo bendruomenė "Gegužraibė - rural community "Geguzraibe"	Lithuania	Šunskų sen. Dielinės kaimas
AFEW International	Netherlands	Amsterdam
Netherlands Helsinki Committee	Netherlands	The Hague
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights	Poland	Warszawa
National Federation of Polish NGOs (OFOP)	Poland	Warszawa
Polski Instytut Praw Człowieka i Biznesu	Poland	Częstochowa
Shipyard – Centre for Social Innovation and Research	Poland	Warszawa
Polish Donors Forum	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego/ Stefan Batory Foundation	Poland	Warszawa
WWF Poland	Poland	Warszawa
Stowarzyszenie Willa Decjusza	Poland	Kraków
Amicus Europae Foundation	Poland	Warszawa
Federacja Inicjatyw Oświatowych/Federation for Educational Initiatives	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja "Sprawniejsi Razem"	Poland	Kalisz
Fundacja Akceptacja	Poland	Poznań
Fundacja Aktywności Lokalnej	Poland	Puszczykowo
Fundacja Alternatywnych Inicjatyw Edukacyjnych	Poland	Bielsko-Biała
Fundacja Autonomia	Poland	Kraków
Fundacja BEZLIK	Poland	Miłosław
Fundacja Civis polonus	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja Czarna Owca Pana Kota	Poland	Kraków
Fundacja e-państwo	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja Edukacyjna OdiTK	Poland	Gdansk
Fundacja Idealna Gmina	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja Miasto Obywatelskie Lubartów	Poland	Lubartów
Fundacja Partners Poland	Poland	Warszawa

Fundacja rozwoju społeczeństwa obywatelskiego	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja Szkoła z Klasą	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja Szkoły. Społecznej	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja trzeci.org	Poland	Gliwice
fundacja tu obok	Poland	Lublin
Fundacja Wiedzieć Więcej	Poland	Kędzierzyn-Koźle
Fundacja Wolna Syria	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja Wspomagania Wsi	Poland	Warszawa
Gdańska Fundacja Dobroczynności	Poland	Gdańsk
Instytut Spraw Publicznych/Institute of Public Affairs	Poland	Warszawa
Krajowe Stowarzyszenie Sołtysów	Poland	Konin
Małopolskie Towarzystwo Oświatowe	Poland	Nowy Sącz
Mosty Europy - BRIDGES WITHIN EUROPE	Poland	Łódź
Ośrodek Działań Ekologicznych "Źródła"	Poland	Łódź
Pilski Bank Żywności	Poland	Piła
Poland Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana	Poland	Warszawa
Unia Seniorów Region Warszawsko-Mazowiecki im. Rotmistrza Witolda Pileckiego	Poland	Opacz - Kolonia
Regionalne Centrum Wspierania Inicjatyw Pozarządowych	Poland	Wrocław
Sieć Obywatelska Watchdog Poland	Poland	Warszawa
Społeczny Komitet ds. AIDS	Poland	Warszawa
Stowarzyszenie "Cała Naprzód"	Poland	Gliwice
Stowarzyszenie Forum Odpowiedzialnego Biznesu	Poland	Warszawa
Stowarzyszenie Głos Kociewia	Poland	Starogard Gdański
Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej	Poland	Warszawa
Stowarzyszenie Klon/Jawor	Poland	Warszawa
Stowarzyszenie Koalicja Karat	Poland	Warszawa
Stowarzyszenie przeciw Antysemityzmowi i Ksenofobii Otwarta Rzeczpospolita	Poland	Warszawa
Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju Produktu Lokalnego „Wiatraki Mazur”	Poland	Orzechowo
Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju Wsi Maziarze Stare i Okolic	Poland	Maziarze Stare
Stowarzyszenie Wolność Równość Demokracja	Poland	Warszawa
Towarzystwo Edukacji Antydyskryminacyjnej	Poland	Warszawa
Towarzystwo Samorządowe	Poland	Konin
Wielkopolskie Stowarzyszenie Sołtysów	Poland	Konin
Dolnośląska Federacja Organizacji Pozarządowych / Lower Silesian Federation of Non-governmental Organizations	Poland	Wrocław

Fundacja Panoptykon / Panoptykon Foundation	Poland	Warszawa
Forum Ruchu Europejskiego (European Movement Forum, Poland)	Poland	Warszawa
Fundacja Przyjaciółka	Poland	Warszawa
Ruch Społeczny Obywatele dla Edukacji/Social Movement "Citizens for Education"	Poland	Warszawa
Asociatia Bunul Samaritean	Romania	Galati
Europuls - Centre of European Expertise	Romania	Bucharest
Association of Mountain and other Rescuers	Slovakia	Žilina
Academia Istropolitana Nova	Slovakia	Svätý Jur
Asociacia poskytovateľov socialnych služieb o.z.	Slovakia	Bratislava
Association for the Protection of Patients' Rights	Slovakia	Bratislava
Assotiation for Community Foundation in Slovakia	Slovakia	Pezinok
Center for Philanthropy	Slovakia	Bratislava
Ekopolis Foundation	Slovakia	Banska Bystrica
Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Slovakia	Slovakia	Bratislava
Independent Platform SocioFórum	Slovakia	Bratislava
Iniciatíva Inakosť	Slovakia	Bratislava
Karpatská nadácia (Carpathian Foundation)	Slovakia	Košice
MESA10	Slovakia	Bratislava
Možnosť voľby	Slovakia	Bratislava
Open Society Foundation Slovakia	Slovakia	Bratislava
PDCS, Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia	Slovakia	Bratislava
Slovak Youth Council	Slovakia	Bratislava
Slovenská humanitná rada	Slovakia	Bratislava
SOCIA – Social Reform Foundation	Slovakia	Bratislava
Asociación Española de Fundaciones	Spain	Madrid
Access Europe	Spain	Madrid
Three Nations Dementia Working Group	UK	Oxford