



Project Proposal: “Challenge Europe: Citizens against Euroscepticism”

Concept Note

A) Context:

European Programme:	Europe for Citizens 2014-2020
Strand:	No. 2 / Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation
Action:	Network of Towns (2020) / Round 1
Specific Priority for 2020	<i>Debating the future of Europe and Challenging Euroscepticism</i>
Call for Proposal Reference:	EACEA/52/2019
Main Objective of the Project:	Exchange of Good Practices
Deadline for Submission:	03 March 2020 / H. 17:00 (CET/CEST, Brussels Time)
Project Title (to be confirmed):	“Challenge Europe: Citizens against Euroscepticism”
Results Communication from EACEA	No. 4 Month from the Submission Deadline

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Reference Website

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/funding/networks-towns-2020-round-1_en

B) Project Proposal Abstract:

The aim of the project is to debate on the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism sharing best practices among European municipalities. Indeed, the project, involving directly citizens and stakeholders, will focus on the following main themes: Public Participation (how citizens are involved in the public life); EU funds (how EU funds help the growth of our municipalities); immigration (how is managed and how could be better managed); Economical Crisis (how municipalities are managing the crisis being able to create new opportunities for citizens); Cohesion Policy (how to reduce economic and social disparities promoting sustainable development). Across these themes, will be held public debates (which will include local visits) in which citizens, politicians, institutions, associations will debate on the future Europe sharing good practices. Public schools will be involved in the process implementing a storytelling tool able to narrate the European Union, as well as local cultural association able to tell European stories with a different approach. Through project’s debates and activities (e.g. itinerant gazebos), citizens will have the opportunity to express the Europe they want and to outline their long term vision for the future of European integration. Indeed, while the debates on four specific topics (Public participation; European funds; Economical crisis; Migration; Cohesion Policy) are based on the concrete achievements of the European Union and on European history the itinerant gazebos placed in each city project partner will aim to reflect/report the current trends on knowledge and interest in EU, enabling participants to approach EU. Thus, the project will challenge Euroscepticism giving to citizens the chance to understand the benefits of the European Union and to reinforce the EU's social and political cohesion further suggesting



possible actions that the European Union could undertake to foster the sense of belonging to Europe. In this sense, debates will be organized not only to show EU positive achievements but also, through key note speakers, on the rise of Euroscepticism and its implications for the future of the European Union, enabling participants to deepen their knowledge of the EU institutions and policies, and better understand the EU. On project events and debates will be invited to not only those already supporting the idea of the European Union, but also the citizens and politicians who reject/question the European Union and those remain indifferent not only to EU but to the political/social engagement (e.g. whom didn't vote to the last elections). The goal is to channel criticism of the EU into a useful, constructive and positive driver for EU in finding concrete actions that EU should undertake becoming closer to its citizens engaging moreover the younger generations.

C) Lead Partner (European Laboratory on Training, Education and Citizenship / EuLabTEC):

EuLabTEC is a non-profit association set up to create workshops of ideas on training and education for Europe and European citizenship. EuLabTEC is therefore a physical and digital space where European professionals and associations exchange best practices for a common European growth. The association therefore carries out activities of social utility in order to educate citizenship on the concepts of European citizenship and the growth of skills aimed at favoring the objectives of a community development in the European sense. It also conducts research and dissemination of European cultural values to improve integration within and outside the Union, promote the mobility of young people by promoting cultural exchange and knowledge, active and participatory European citizenship, and opportunities for networking. It also organizes courses, training activities, seminars, in particular, in order to achieve the following aims: 1) Promote the education to civil responsibility and active citizenship; 2) Develop awareness, critical awareness and competence in the younger generations; 3) Offer new opportunities in training and providing skills to adults with social problems; 4) Promote European economic and social policies; 5) Cultural education of young people at European and international level; 6) Promote the youth mobility in the cultural, educational and working fields; 7. Support for young artists in the field of visual arts, theater, music, entertainment and free creativity in general; 8) Promote the free circulation of ideas; 9) Promote and develop non-formal education paths.

The association acquires its experience from the key staff that composes it. The project management experience is based on projects based on the Europe for Citizens, Erasmus Plus and Horizon 2020 programs. In the context of the Europe for Citizens program, in particular, the founders of the association have carried out management activities on behalf of Local Authorities and Civil Society organizations in the areas of social entrepreneurship, best practices and the use of intelligent technologies in favor of small historic villages. Furthermore, activities were organized by the association for: 1) the implementation of intercultural projects such as, by way of non-exhaustive example, international exchanges, twinning, international volunteering; 2) implementation of collaborative projects and international support; 3) implementation of training courses, promotion of intercultural activities, seminars, conferences, laboratories, research and publications, including those of a professional nature; 4) initiatives of an artistic, social and cultural nature, and in support of civil society initiatives for the local community involved in the



association. EuLabTEC also has experience in activities aimed at: 1) promotion of social commitment and solidarity: activities designed to promote debate, campaigns, actions on issues of common interest within the broader framework of the rights and responsibilities of EU citizens by establishing a correlation with the European political agenda and with the European decision-making process; 2) collection of opinions: activities aimed at gathering the individual opinions of citizens on a specific topic, favoring a bottom-up approach (also making use of social networks, webinars, etc.) and media literacy; 3) volunteering: activities aimed at promoting solidarity between the citizens of the Union and beyond; 4) promotion of the history of European citizenship: actions designed to create moments of debate in the places where the Ventotene Manifesto was born through activities on the homonymous island in the Province of Latina and surrounding areas.

Key Staff:

Francesco Marchionni is *President* of EuLabTEC and since 2012 he works in the field of European Project Management and in International Cooperation projects. He held the position of Coordinator of the Consulta Giovani of Avis Nazionale, working in the framework of projects on the European Civil Service and relying on the Youth in Actions program (2012). From 2015 he is a trainer at CESV Lazio for Civil Service projects in the areas of Project Management and Team & Leadership Management. From 2017 he is Project Manager in International Cooperation projects for the Italy Eritrea Onlus Association.

Luigi A. Dell'Aquila is *Scientific Director* of EuLabTEC and has over fifteen years of scientific, teaching and professional experience in the fields of Economics, Policies and Programs of the European Union and in that role he taught at the University of Perugia. Former member of the Scientific-Institutional Committee of the Umbria Research Agency, he was the Didactics Coordinator and Lecturer of the II Level Master in “Public Management” (organized and promoted by the University of Perugia in partnership with the Higher School of Internal Administration and IRI Management S.p.A.) and has carried out Technical Assistance activities to the Managing Authority of the ROP of the ESF Calabria 2007-2013 and to the Managing Authority and the Certification Authority of the ROP of the ESF Abruzzo 2014-2020.

He held the position of European Project Manager (on behalf of the Municipality of Santa Severina, Italy) of the Network of Town Project – under “Europe for Citizens” European Programme - by title “European Network for Social Integration Entrepreneurship: Social Inclusion and Development of Rural Regions for a Better European Future / ENSIE”, a Transnational and International Partnership that includes 12 Organizations - including, Municipalities, Institutions Non Profit, Non Governmental Organizations, Institutions of Education, Training and Research and Experts in the field of Economics and Social Entrepreneurship - coming from 10 different EU Member States (Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Italy, Hungary, Serbia, Latvia, Croatia, Portugal and Romania).

Currently holding the role of European Project Manager (on behalf of the Union of Municipalities of the Grecia Salentina, Italy) of the Network of Town Project by title “EU Citizens’ Action for Smart Historic Villages / #EuSAVE”, a Transnational and International Partnership that includes 8 Organizations - including, Municipalities, Unions of Municipalities, Associations and Local Action Groups representing a total of 40 Local Public Authorities and Municipalities located in the following 4 Geographical Areas: North, South, West and East - coming from 8 different EU



Member States (Spain, Macedonia of the North, France, Bulgaria, Italy, Latvia, Croatia and Portugal) and holding the role of European Project Manager (on behalf of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies / ALDA, France) of the Network of Town Project by title "Supporting Democratic Union and Active Citizenship in Digital Era", a Transnational and International Partnership that includes 16 Organizations - including, Municipalities, Federations of Municipalities, Associations, Voluntary Organizations, Universities - coming from 15 different EU Member States (Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Bulgaria, Italy, Croatia, Romania, Macedonia of the North, Poland, Sweden, Latvia, Belgium, United Kingdom, Czech Republic and France).

Finally, he is the owner of the Consultancy and Training Agency "Knowledge Management & Intellectual Capital" operates in the European Funding Sector and member of the Permanent Informal Forum and of the "ad hoc" Working Group on Capacity Building - established by the Club of Venice at General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (Bruxelles, Belgium) - concerning the European Union Policies and Programs as Senior Expert External in Economics and Policies of the European Union and European Programs and Consultant on "Direct Management" Transnational Programs, European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds), "Indirect Management", European Territorial Cooperation Programs and Programs related to External Action of the European Union. Currently, he holds the position of Deputy Vice President of the Permanent Seminar of International Studies based in Naples and Ventotene (Italy) and is registered on the List of Senior Experts of the European Commission - Regio General Directorate (Regional and Urban Policy) in Brussels (Belgium) as Senior Expert in Primary, Secondary and Higher Education, Professional and Adult Education, Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds and Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds and other European Union Financial Instruments.

D) Project Partners:

Eligible Partners: a) local or regional authorities: towns, municipalities, regions, provinces, city councils; b) twinning committees, networks, federations, associations of local and regional authorities; c) non-profit organizations, civil society organizations; d) universities, regional offices.

Participating Countries: EU Member State (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden) and Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The "Target" Project Partnership will consist of **10 Entities** from **10 different Programme Countries**

Please Note: Others possible Partners interested in the Project Topic are welcome!

E) Target Group:

The **Target Group** of the **Project Proposal** consist of: a) urban and rural municipalities or other levels of local/regional authorities, associations/federations of local authorities and non-profit organisations representing local authorities; b) universities and research centres from the following fields of activity: international and european study, economy and policies of the European Union study; c) civil society organisations; d) EU citizens, immigrants and refugees; e) public in general.





F) Project Total Budget:

The total budget requested (estimation): **Euros 150.000,00.**

G) Financing Rules

The **Types of Eligible Costs** are: a) staff costs directly related with the Project; b) travelling and accomodation costs of participants during the foreseen actions (transnational events in others Partner Countries); c) rooms rental and interpretation and transltion services for the foreseen transnational events; d) communication and dissemination costs of the transnational events; e) coordination costs generated by the participation of several entities.

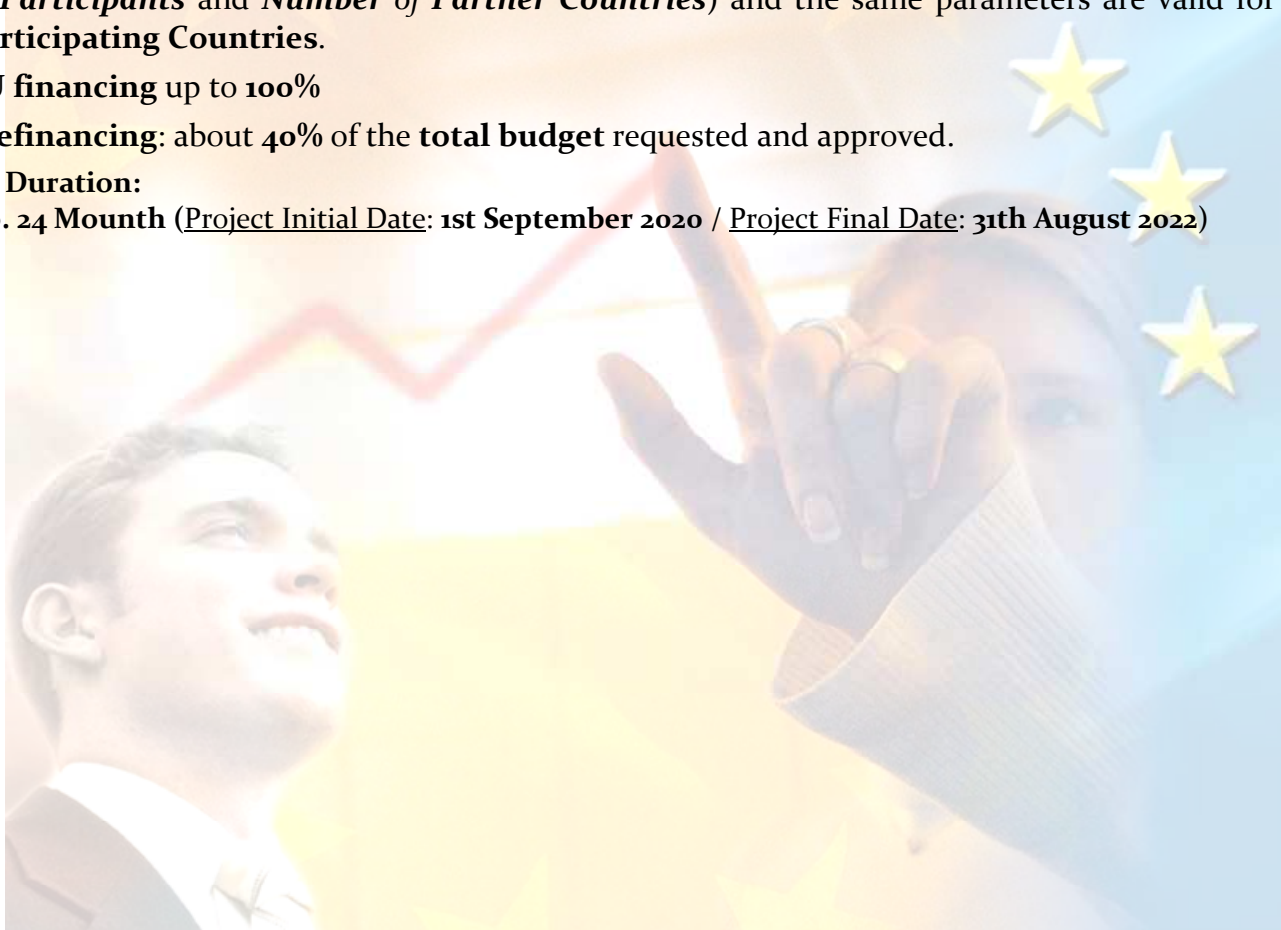
The **grant** is calculated on the basis of **lump sum** financing sistem fixed per “**trances**” (**Number of Participants** and **Number of Partner Countries**) and the same parameters are valid for all **Participating Countries**.

EU financing up to 100%

Prefinancing: about **40%** of the **total budget** requested and approved.

H) Duration:

No. 24 Mounth (Project Initial Date: 1st September 2020 / Project Final Date: 31th August 2022)



Please note that the content of the text is strictly confidential