Priorities of the programme for 2014

In line with the general objectives of the Europe for Citizens programme, annual priorities are defined by the European Commission after consultation of the programme committee. Applicants are encouraged to develop projects in line with the objectives of the programme and targeting the annual priorities.

A distinction has to be made between the priorities for Strand 1 – European remembrance and Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation.

Strand 1: European remembrance

According to Article 3 of the Treaty of the European Union, the EU's aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples.

In the context of this article and the general description of Strand 1, the Europe for Citizens programme will support projects reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history as well as projects concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history.

Historical moments which will be commemorated in particular in 2014 will be the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, the 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the 10 years of enlargement of the European Union to Central and Eastern Europe. These key moments of European modern history have therefore been chosen as annual priorities for Strand 1 of the Europe for Citizens Programme for the year 2014.

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

Elections to the European Parliament will be held in all Member States from 22 to 25 May 2014. These elections will be the first to be held under the Lisbon Treaty enhancing the role of EU citizens as political actors through Article 11 TEU.

Against this background, the annual priority of Strand 2 of the Europe for Citizens programme for the year 2014 will be built around the elections to the European Parliament and citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU. There is a need for deepening the debate on the future of Europe with the aim of setting up a European public space, where European issues are discussed and debated from a European standpoint.

In this context, under Strand 2 of the Europe for Citizens Programme priority will be given to projects dealing with citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU, ranging from local democracy to the empowerment of citizens to play a full part in EU policy.