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24 September 2019

TO: Members of Government and Members of Parliament

SUBJECT: Call for an increase of the budget of the Rights and Values programme

Dear Member of the Government,  
Dear Member of the Parliament,

Ahead of the negotiations of the EU budget for 2021-2027, we, the representatives of the civil society, are calling on you to use your powers and influence to increase the budget for the UE Rights and Values Programme from 641 million EUR (as proposed by the European Commission) to 1.83 billion EUR (as decided by the European Parliament).

Our common values enshrined in Article 2 of the EU Treaty, such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities need constant cultivation and protection - both in our country and in the EU. We strive to strengthen these values within our constituencies on a daily basis.

The Rights and Values Programme can be an effective instrument of supporting civil society organisations (CSOs), which promote and protect European values on local, national and European levels. It can strengthen the immune system of our democracy and help us protect the rights of our fellow citizens.

However, this Programme will not be effective unless equipped with adequate financial resources. This is especially true given that the European Parliament and the EU Council have agreed to expand the thematic scope to actions of CSOs aimed at promoting and protecting the culture of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and transparency.

Therefore, we call on the Government, and on you personally, to support the increase of the budget of the Rights and Values Programme under the next EU multiannual financial framework to the level suggested by the European Parliament, i.e. to 1.83 billion EUR. By acting together, we can reinforce our shared values which constitute the strongest fundament of a democratic society.

Yours faithfully,

List of signatory CSOs