Proposal Evaluation Form

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Evaluation Summary Report

Call: CERV-2026-CITIZENS-CIV

Type of action: CERV-LS

Proposal number: 101347624

Proposal acronym: ODQ

Duration (months): 24

Proposal title: Neighbourhood Eyes — Children as Civic Sensors: A Replicable Model for Participatory Democracy at the Local Level

Activity: 2.1 BEYOND-ELECTIONS_CSO

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total eligible costs	%	Grant Requested	%
1	Vestibolo ETS	IT	88,937	64.71%	88,937	64.71%
2	ASOCIATIA POLYLOGOS	RO	48,498	35.29%	48,498	35.29%
	Total:		137,435		137,435	

Abstract:

Voting every four or five years is the minimum threshold of democracy, not its ceiling. Between elections, most citizens have no mechanism to convert their direct knowledge of their territory into verified input for public administration. This is a daily reality in thousands of European neighbourhoods — including Carbonazzi in Sassari, Italy.

Neighbourhood Eyes — Occhi di Quartiere (ODQ) builds the missing infrastructure. Over 24 months, it deploys a complete civic participation cycle — from structured observation to verified deliberation to formal municipal submission — in two neighbourhoods in two EU countries, releasing the model as an open-source toolkit for CSOs across Europe.

The cycle works in three phases linked to the school calendar. In KNOWING (WP1), fourth-grade children engage as civic sensors through educational modules aligned with the civic education curriculum. Over fieldwork outings, they document their neighbourhood with tablets. Their geotagged observations populate an interactive public map. At the end of the school year, the children present findings to the Neighbourhood Committee and families.

In RECOGNISING (WP2), the children — now in fifth grade — examine what the community decided over the summer, complete modules on active citizenship, and draft a formal submission to the Municipality — co-signed by the Committee and Vestibolo.

In DESIGNING (WP3), the full cycle converges into a Community Proposal ratified by residents through three voting channels. Deposited at the Municipality under the Sassari Participation Regulation, it generates a 30-day response obligation and lays the groundwork for permanent co-design between community and administration.

Polylogos Association (Romania, co-beneficiary) replicates the methodology in Cluj-Napoca with 132 children across three schools. The toolkit is released under CC-BY licence at month 24.

We do not decide for communities. We build the tools so they can decide for themselves.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 82.00 (Threshold: 70)

Criterion 1 - Relevance

Score: **34.50** (Threshold: 25 / 40.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The ODQ project is relevant to the call priority 2 ENGAGEMENT BEYOND-ELECTIONS, Sub-priority 2.1, main focus CSOs. The proposal aims at facilitating structured citizen participation at the local level through innovative practices. The issue of relevance is well addressed and convincingly evidenced. The focus on children as "civic sensors" is distinctive and well connected to civic education, local democracy and neighbourhood-level participation.

The needs addressed in the project are defined and well substantiated. The proposal identifies well pedagogical, deliberative, and institutional barriers to civic participation at the local level. The diagnosis combines international and EU-level evidence on trust, citizen voice and civil society participation with a detailed territorial analysis of the pilot context. However, the needs assessment for one of the partners is insufficiently developed. The gender perspective has been sufficiently demonstrated, as the needs assessment highlights certain gender-specific aspects. The child-sensitive dimension is clearly substantiated, as the project is designed around children's right to be heard, civic education and safe participation. However, the analysis insufficiently differentiates children's specific participation barriers. The proposal provides sufficient quantifiable outcomes from the needs analysis. The project corresponds well to the identified needs.

The target groups are clearly defined and suitably chosen, as their selection is well justified: children aged 9-11, teachers, the local community, and the local authority. The proposal defines clear recruitment criteria. The school-based recruitment mechanism is particularly relevant. The gender-sensitive aspects are well addressed, as the proposal implements its own formal Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination Declaration, committing the organisation to gender-balanced recruitment of volunteers and facilitators. The proposal clearly indicates the children's ages. However, the issue of target groups is addressed unequally regarding the two participating countries.

The proposal convincingly demonstrates its contribution to the consistent and coherent implementation of European Union law, policies, and strategies, specifically the European Democracy Shield and the Defence of Democracy Package, including at the local level. It demonstrates its ability to increase public awareness of citizens' rights by promoting effective participation in local policymaking. The project's outputs contribute to wider debate on local democratic resilience and children's participation. However, the EU-level pathway relies mainly on dissemination and replication rather than direct engagement with EU policy processes.

The proposal sufficiently demonstrates its potential to improve cross-border cooperation and develop mutual trust between participating organisations, based in two EU countries. The replication component provides an initial test of the methodology in another national and administrative setting, supporting mutual learning and transferability.

The transfer of good practices across borders is demonstrated to some extent by the project's design, which is based on implementing an innovative model of citizen participation at the local level and testing it in a different national, institutional, educational, and civic context. The proposal demonstrates a good potential to develop practical tools and solutions that address Union-wide challenges. The transnational impact lies in the comparative evidence to be produced, which will allow other countries to follow suit. However, the transnational dimension is underdeveloped, as the context of one of the partners is insufficiently elaborated.

The issue of building synergies and avoiding duplication with projects funded by other Union programmes or by previous projects under the same funding stream is insufficiently addressed, as the proposal fails to elaborate on how the action builds on the partner's previous projects or on other EU-funded projects. The issue of complementarity is inadequately addressed because the proposal focuses on complementarity between the partners rather than with other actions.

Criterion 2 - Quality

Score: **31.00** (Threshold: 0 / 40.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The proposal is clearly presented and consistent throughout. However, it is occasionally overdeveloped in narrative and legal-technical detail, which may reduce clarity. The project's objectives are clearly described and adequately translated into activities and deliverables. The project's deliverables are clear, quantifiable and measurable. The work is appropriately structured in several work packages. Although a separate management and coordination package is designed, it does not seek EU funding. The requirement that all work packages include citizen gathering and active engagement activities is fully met. The budgets for the work packages specified in Annex A correspond to the pre-fixed LS amounts required by the call. WPs are detailed and contain measurable deliverables.

The methodology for the implementation of the project is clearly presented, robust, innovative and well chosen for the objectives. The logical chain between the identified problems and needs, activities, and expected results is clearly defined, as the project gradually moves participants from knowledge to skills and to civic engagement. The gender perspective is appropriately taken into account (e.g. gender-sensitive facilitation of all public events). The central and active role of children ensures their meaningful participation and is a good prerequisite for involving the other target groups in the activities in a meaningful and beneficial way. The children's participation is well planned, following the 'children as subjects' principle. However, the territorial and institutional basis in the replication context is insufficiently detailed. Access to target groups is ensured by the coordinator (a local community and a school are operational partners), but is not sufficiently demonstrated by the partner.

The consortium is appropriately constructed and demonstrates the necessary capacity to implement the project. Complementarity between the partners is well evidenced, as the coordinator provides the vital infrastructure and methodology, and the partner its experience in implementing EU-funded projects, including CERV grants. Both organisations demonstrate sufficient staff with appropriate expertise for the core project activities. The envisaged external expertise is limited to specific activities (journalist, social media manager, physiotherapist). The proposal clearly outlines the distribution of responsibilities among the team members. However, operational capacity is not fully evidenced across all key implementation requirements. The coordinator's recent establishment, combined with insufficiently defined roles of the external actors (schools and municipal procedures) in relation to the partner, poses implementation challenges.

The work plan is clear and coherent. The allocation of resources and the distribution of tasks between partners are appropriate for the planned activities. However, the distribution of tasks between the partners is disproportionate, as the coordinator leads all WPs and implements most activities, receiving the larger part of the resources. The timetable is detailed and realistic, and aligns with the WPs' descriptions. Appropriate procedures and problem-solving mechanisms for cooperation within project teams and the consortium are described.

Overall, the risk assessment is comprehensive and realistic, and the proposed preventive and mitigation measures are adequate. However, the risks are assessed primarily in relation to the coordinator, with only one risk (operational weakness) dedicated to the partner, leaving other risks unaddressed. The risk of incidents with children during the implementation of the activities has been appropriately identified and addressed. However, the risk related to gender imbalanced participation is insufficiently addressed. The proposal presents an adequate strategy for monitoring the project's implementation. However, the proposed indicators do not sufficiently prove some expected outcomes, such as strengthened trust, empowerment, replication by other CSOs and sustained institutional change. The indicator classification does not fully reflect the educational and dissemination nature of the activities, which limits the precision of the monitoring framework. The evaluation strategy relies on measurable indicators for the action's results. The gender perspective is appropriately integrated into both monitoring (e.g., collecting and reporting gender-disaggregated data) and the evaluation strategy. The child rights perspective is insufficiently integrated into both the monitoring and evaluation strategies.

The project demonstrates its alignment with the EU values as it supports democratic participation and civic engagement and implements a formally adopted Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination Declaration. However, the proposal doesn't sufficiently define the measures and policies to guarantee full compliance with EU values. The EU Charter on Fundamental Rights is explicitly mentioned in the text, but not Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union. Other ethical issues (e. g. CoI, informed consent, etc.) are appropriately addressed. The children's safety is properly considered (including from a risk perspective).

Criterion 3 - Impact

Score: **16.50** (Threshold: 0 / 20.00 , Weight: -)

The detailed criteria are set out in the call conditions (see Call document).

The proposal provides well-defined, specific, and measurable expected results to meet its objectives. The expected results demonstrate the proposal's potential to produce tangible change for its target groups. For example, the outcome of children developing civic reading competence is verified through the maps they produce and publish. The results are not directly related to gender equality, but would contribute to the collection of gender-disaggregated participation data. However, evidence supporting broader outcomes, including increased trust, empowerment, and long-term institutional change, is limited. The impact of the results on gender equality is insufficiently specific.

The proposal appropriately demonstrates the potential of its dissemination strategy to ensure sustainable long-term impact. Some of the key project activities include elements of public communication (e.g., data collected by children are summarised on publicly available maps, and the results of public discussions and voting are published on an electronically accessible platform). The dissemination strategy is clear, targeted, and appropriate, as it is planned at different levels (local, national, European) and across various communication channels (digital and print, online and in person, etc.). However, the strategy is insufficiently target-specific and lacks sufficient quantitative indicators. The communication approach does not adequately consider the replication context and wider EU audiences. Considerations regarding the target audience's gender and age, as well as safeguards to prevent discrimination and victimisation, are not adequately demonstrated. The proposal insufficiently addresses the need for gender neutral and child-friendly language in the dissemination of results. The explanation of how outputs will be adapted for child-friendly, disability-accessible and multilingual dissemination beyond the immediate local settings remains insufficiently developed.

The proposal demonstrates its potential to create a multiplier effect as the developed methodology for sustainable civic participation at the local level will be tested and available online to be used by other organisations. However, the replication conditions are insufficiently evidenced for broader European uptake.

Long-term sustainability is credible and well developed. In some respects, it is appropriately demonstrated by quantitative indicators (e.g., the number of CSOs engaged in replicating the model, the number of toolkit downloads). The project identifies permanent assets, including the operational platform, electronic voting system, etc., that will remain active beyond the project and enable use of the created methodology. This provides a sustainability framework. However, parts of the continuation strategy depend on volunteer capacity, continued municipal cooperation, sustained school commitment, etc. Platform maintenance, continuation roles and the conditions for wider replication are not fully secured. The impact on the general public and policymakers is not sufficiently substantiated.

Scope of the proposal

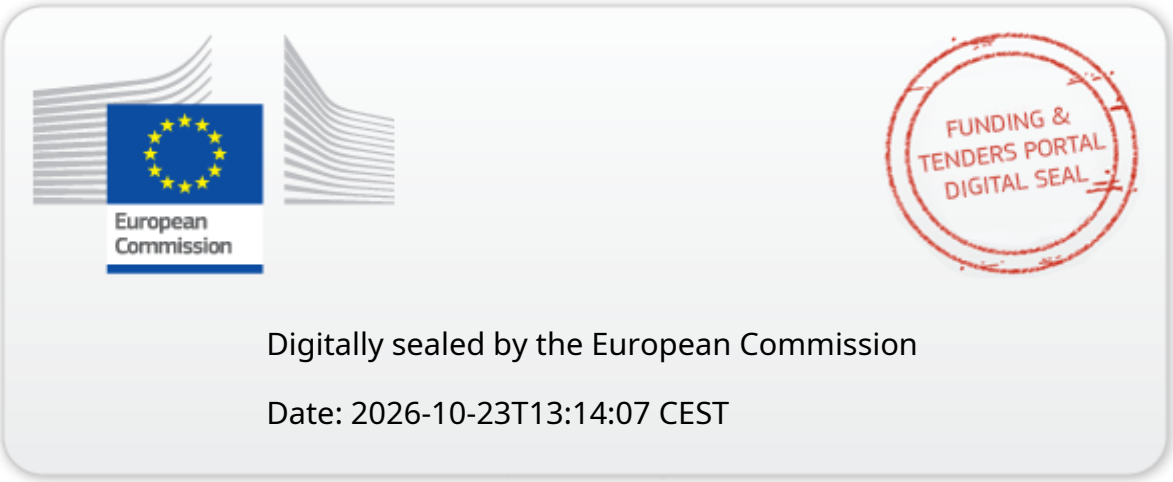
Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

Overall comments

Not provided



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