“Civil Security for Society” Work Programme 2024

- **Fighting Crime and Terrorism**: 41.7 MEUR (8 topics)
- **Border Management**: 29 MEUR (5 topics)
- **Resilient Infrastr.**: 16 MEUR (3 topics)
- **Disaster Resilient Societies**: 30 MEUR (5 topics)
- **Strengthened Security R&I**: 16.5 MEUR (2 topics)
- **Increased Cybersecurity**: 60.4 MEUR (2 topics)

2024 TOTAL BUDGET 193.6 MEUR
WP 2023-2025 – General principles

Challenge-driven

✓ Needs of society, practitioners and relevant entities
✓ Reflected in 'Expected Impacts'

Obligatory participation of Practitioners (FCT, DRS, BM, INFRA, SSRI)

✓ Specific template to be filled out
✓ Better market uptake and higher impact
✓ Enhanced policy support
✓ Reduced oversubscription

Increased involvement of civil society

✓ e.g. as part of consortium
✓ Via target groups for dissemination bringing thus research closer to the public
2024 Call evaluation - Timeline of main steps

- **WP Publication**: 17/04/2024
- **Calls Opening**: 27/06/2024
- **Deadline**: 20/11/2024
- **Remote Evaluation**: Dec 2024
- **Ethics Consensus Phase**: Mar 2025
- **Remote Ethics Review**: Jan-Mar 2025
- **Panel Meetings**: Jan-Feb 2025
- **Consensus Phase**: Jan-Feb 2025
- **Security Scrutiny**: Jan-Mar 2025
- **Information to Programme Committee and to applicants + Evaluation Review**: Apr 2025
- **Grant Preparation**: Apr-Jun 2025
- **Start of projects from**: Jul-Aug 2025
Receipt of proposals

Admissibility/eligibility check
HE - Who is eligible for funding?

EU COUNTRIES
• Member States (MS) including their outermost regions
• The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the MS

NON-EU COUNTRIES
• Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC)
• Low and middle income countries
• Other countries when announced in the call or exceptionally if their participation is essential

SPECIFIC CASES
• Affiliated entities established in countries eligible for funding
• EU bodies (unless provided for otherwise in their basic act)
• International European research organisations (Other IOs are eligible only exceptionally if participation is essential)

HE - Activities eligible for funding

Eligible activities are the ones described in the call and topic conditions.

The types of action include different activities eligible for funding.

Activities must **focus exclusively on civil applications** and **must not**:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes;
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (except for research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed);
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research, or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer;
- lead to the destruction of human embryos.

HE - General eligibility conditions

Consortium composition (collaborative projects) for RIA/IA

• at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State, and
• at least two other independent legal entities each established either in a different Member State or an Associated Country

Consortium composition (collaborative projects) for PCP

The PCP must be prepared and executed by one of the following:
• by one or more public procurer(s), plus possibly one or more private and/or NGO procurer(s) that provide similar services of public interest, that is (are) responsible for the acquisition and/or regulatory strategy of the relevant innovative solutions and aim to obtain ambitious quality and efficiency improvements in the area of the PCP; or
• by entities with a mandate from one or more of these procurers to act on their behalf in the procurement (e.g. central purchasing bodies).

HE - General eligibility conditions

Gender Equality Plan

Participants that are public bodies, research organisations or higher education establishments from Members States and Associated countries must have a gender equality plan, covering minimum process-related requirements.

- A self-declaration will be requested at proposal stage (for all types of participants)
- Included in the entity validation process (based on self-declaration)
- The gender equality plan will be checked during the Grant Agreement preparation if the proposal is selected for funding

Restrictions on participation in Innovation Actions

Legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in Horizon Europe Innovation Actions in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks

Entities that are assessed as high-risk suppliers of mobile network communication equipment (and any entities they own or control) are not eligible to participate as beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners. Entities assessed as “high-risk suppliers”, are currently set out in the second report on Member States’ progress in implementing the EU toolbox on 5G cybersecurity of 2023 and the related Communication on the implementation of the 5G cybersecurity toolbox of 2023.

HE - Eligibility - Specific restrictions

- **EU restrictive measures**

Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)20 as well as Article 75 TFEU21, are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

- **Other restrictive measures**

Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine

Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary

Others

The participation of practitioners (or other categories of participants) is a mandatory criterion in Calls FCT, DRS, BM, INFRA, SSRI.

Pay attention – where applicable – to the detailed footnotes:

“In the context of this Destination, ‘Police Authorities’ means public authorities explicitly designated by national law, or other entities legally mandated by the competent national authority, for the prevention, detection and/or investigation of terrorist offences or other criminal offences, specifically excluding police academies, forensic institutes, training facilities as well as border and customs authorities.”

NB: on average 7-10% of applicants fail to properly address these conditions.
Additional eligibility conditions 2/3

Annex to the application: Information on practitioners

- This template must be filled in by the applicants to describe how the proposal fulfil the additional eligibility criteria concerning the practitioners’ involvement as requested in the topic description.

- The applicants shall include only project beneficiaries.

- The template must be properly filled in and uploaded as part of the application.

- The applicants should mention only the participants with practitioner status which are relevant to fulfil the additional eligibility criteria.
Open topics:

Pay attention – where applicable – to the following indication:

- Proposals that address research themes or challenges already covered by other topics in Horizon Europe Calls 2021-2022, 2023 and 2024, cannot be submitted under this topic.

- More information will be provided during the presentations of the topic by DG HOME.
Advice & lessons learned:

- Ensure that the beneficiary really meets the criteria e.g. a **scientific/academic organization or a training facility on Disaster Management is not a First Responder** (idem for Police Authorities, Civil Society Organisations, Customs, Border guards etc.)

- Ensure that the minimum number and type of countries and that all categories are covered e.g. “[…] at least 2 Police Authorities and at least 2 forensic institutes from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated countries”

- Ensure that the right level of beneficiaries is represented, e.g. “[…] at least 3 government entities responsible for security, […] , at **national level**.”

- Different departments/services of the same entity/organisation cannot fulfil two criteria, e.g. Law Enforcement Agency & First Responder
HE - Admissibility

**General admissibility conditions**
Applications must be submitted before the call deadline, electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal.
Applications must be complete, readable, accessible and printable, and include a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results, unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions.

**Proposal page limit**
RIAs and IAs:
limit for a full application is 45 pages (50 if the topic is lump sum based)
PCPs:
limit for a full application is 45 pages

HE - Admissibility

• All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to these sections must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against the page limit.

• The page limit will be applied automatically. If you attempt to upload a proposal longer than the specified limit before the deadline, you will receive an automatic warning and will be advised to shorten and re-upload the proposal.

• After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible and will not be taken into consideration by the experts.

• Experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.

• Please, do not consider the page limit as a target! It is in your interest to keep your text as concise as possible, since experts rarely view unnecessarily long proposals in a positive light.

HE - Formatting conditions

The following formatting conditions apply:

• The reference font for the body text of proposals is **Times New Roman** (Windows platforms), Times/Times New Roman (Apple platforms) or Nimbus Roman No. 9 L (Linux distributions).

• The use of a different font for the body text is not advised and is subject to the cumulative conditions that the font is legible and that its use does not significantly shorten the representation of the proposal in number of pages compared to using the reference font (for example with a view to bypass the page limit).

• The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.

• Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible.

• The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).

Experts assess proposals individually (Minimum of three experts per proposal)

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a common position, including comments and scores for each proposal.

The panel of experts reach an agreement on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking consistency across the evaluations, if necessary, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree. Rank the proposals with the same score.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state of-the-art.</td>
<td>✓ Credibility of the <strong>pathways</strong> to achieve the expected <strong>outcomes and impacts</strong> specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.</td>
<td>✓ Quality and effectiveness of the <strong>work plan</strong>, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the <strong>gender dimension</strong> in research and innovation content, quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate</td>
<td>✓ Suitability and quality of the <strong>measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts</strong>, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.</td>
<td>✓ Capacity and role of each <strong>participant</strong>, and extent to which the <strong>consortium</strong> as a whole brings together the necessary expertise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation Criteria (PCP)

**Excellence**

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives, and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state-of-the-art in terms of the degree of innovation that is needed to satisfy the procurement need.

- Soundness of the proposed methodology, taking into account the underlying concepts and assumptions.

**Impact**

- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme.

- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation (*) plan, including communication activities.

- (*) For PCP actions and PPI actions, the exploitation of results by the beneficiaries means primarily the use that is made of the innovative solutions by the procurers/end-users. The manufacturing and sale of the innovative solutions are performed by the suppliers of the solutions, which are not beneficiaries but subcontractors.

**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.

- Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.
IMPACT design in Horizon Europe

Scientific impact
Promote scientific excellence, support the creation and diffusion of high-quality new fundamental and applied knowledge, skills, training and mobility of researchers, attract talent at all levels, and contribute to full engagement of Union's talent pool in actions supported under the Programme.

Societal impact
Generate knowledge, strengthen the impact of R&I in developing, supporting and implementing Union policies, and support the uptake of innovative solutions in industry, notably in SMEs, and society to address global challenges, inter alia the SDGs

Economic impact
Foster all forms of innovation, facilitate technological development, demonstration and knowledge transfer, and strengthen deployment of innovative solutions
Scoring, thresholds and weighting

✓ **Scoring must be in the range from 0-5.** Half-marks may be given

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓ **The threshold for the individual criteria is 3.** The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the 3 individual scores, is 10 points.

✓ **Weighting:** scores are normally NOT weighted. Weighting is used for some types of actions — and only for the ranking (not to determine if the proposal passed the thresholds).

✓ **Specific calls or topics may have different rules** regarding thresholds and weighting.
Experts assess proposals **individually** (Minimum of three experts per proposal)

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a **common position**, including comments and scores for each proposal.

The panel of experts reach an **agreement** on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking **consistency across the evaluations**, if necessary, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree. Rank the proposals with the same score.

The proposals potentially selected for funding go through the Ethics screening and Security Scrutiny.
Ethics review

Projects must comply with ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and applicable EU, international and national law. Applicants must have completed the ethics self-assessment as part of their application.

For more information, see How to complete your ethics self-assessment.

Projects involving ethics issues will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific ethics requirements.

These requirements become part of the grant agreement as ethics deliverables, e.g. ethics committee opinions/authorisations required under national or EU law.
Security scrutiny

In Horizon Europe

Security issues are checked systematically in all Horizon Europe proposals (in H2020 only proposals submitted to topics flagged as ‘security-sensitive’ were checked).

The checks are based on a self-assessment included in the proposal.

The checks based on the self-assessment may trigger an in-depth security scrutiny.
Experts assess proposals individually (Minimum of three experts per proposal)

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a common position, including comments and scores for each proposal.

The panel of experts reach an agreement on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking consistency across the evaluations, if necessary, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree. Rank the proposals with the same score.

The proposals potentially selected for funding go through the Ethics screening and Security Scrutiny.

The Commission/Agency reviews the results of the experts’ evaluation and puts together the final ranking list.
HORIZON EUROPE

Application Template and Evaluation Form
The proposal contains two parts:

**Part A** (web-based forms) is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information entered by the participants through the submission system in the Funding & Tenders Portal.

**Part B** is the narrative part that includes three sections that each correspond to an evaluation criterion. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the templates downloaded by the applicants in the submission system for the specific call or topic.
What is expected from the applicants?

- Check the call description
- Read carefully the topic description in the Work Programme:
  - **Title and Specific conditions** (ToA, indicative budget, TRL...)
  - **Type of Action** (RIA, IA, CSA, PCP)
  - Expected outcome
  - **Scope**
Structure of the proposal template

PART A

● Abstract, administrative data of consortium, budget table

In addition

● Researchers table – needed to follow up researchers' careers

**NB: If necessary, the gender balance among the researchers named in the researchers table in the proposal, will be used as a factor for prioritisation.**

● Ethics self-assessment

● Security questionnaire

● Information on participants' previous activities related to the call
Structure of the proposal template

PART B

● Excellence
● Impact
● Quality and efficiency of the Implementation

In addition:

● Glossary of terms to ensure consistency
● Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section
● Annexes:
  Information on security issues
  Information on practitioners
  Lump Sum table (when relevant)
The focus is on:

- Whether the proposal uses or generates **EU classified information**
- Potential of **misuse of results** (that could be channeled into crime or terrorism)
- Whether activities involve information or materials subject to national security restrictions
Annex Information on security practitioners

Annex to the application: Information on practitioners

- This template must be filled in by the applicants to describe how the proposal fulfil the additional eligibility criteria concerning the practitioners’ involvement as requested in the topic description.

- The applicants shall include only project beneficiaries.

- The template must be properly filled in and uploaded as part of the application.

- The applicants should mention only the participants with practitioner status which are relevant to fulfil the additional eligibility criteria.
Structure of evaluation form

Same structure as in H2020

Main part based on the three evaluation criteria where experts give comments and scores

Additional questions:

• Scope of the application
• Exceptional funding
• Activities excluded from funding
• Exclusive focus on civil applications
• Artificial Intelligence

+ Criterion 1 - Excellence
  Current score: 5.0 / 5.0 ; Threshold 3; Priority 1

+ Criterion 2 - Impact
  Current score: 5.0 / 5.0 ; Threshold 3; Priority 2

+ Criterion 3 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation
  Current score: 5.0 / 5.0 ; Threshold 3; Priority 3

+ Scope of the application
  Current status: Yes

+ Exceptional funding

+ Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)
  Current status: No

+ Use of human embryos
  Current status: No

+ Activities excluded from funding
  Current status: No

+ Do no significant harm principle
  Current status: Yes

+ Exclusive focus on civil applications
  Current status: Yes

+ Artificial Intelligence
  Current status: Yes

+ Overall comments
Exceptional funding

- Third country participants
- International organisations

During the evaluation experts give their opinion on the exceptional funding.

Participation is considered essential for the action if there are clear benefits for the consortium, such as:

- outstanding competence/expertise
- access to research infrastructure
- access to particular geographical environments
- access to data
Dual use and Exclusive focus on civil applications

- The assessment on ‘exclusive focus on civil applications’ aspects is carried out by the technical evaluators in the form of additional question.

- Experts **may recommend removing activities** not focusing exclusively on civil applications from the proposal. **This would lead to lower evaluation scores**.

- For ‘dual use’, no additional question for experts in the evaluation. The declaration mentioned above will be sufficient with no further checks in evaluation or grant management.
Artificial intelligence

Under Horizon Europe, the technical robustness* of the proposed AI based systems is evaluated under the excellence criterion

- Experts must answer an additional question on whether the activities proposed involve the use and/or development of AI-based systems and/or techniques
- The aim is to bring to experts’ attention that they must assess the technical robustness of the proposed AI-system as part of the excellence criterion (if applicable)
- Applicants are advised to explain the technical robustness* of the proposed AI based systems
- Also, the answer to this question aims at ensuring a proper follow-up of any aspects related to Artificial Intelligence in projects funded under Horizon Europe

(*) Technical robustness refers to technical aspects of AI systems and development, including resilience to attack and security, fullback plan and general safety, accuracy, reliability and reproducibility.
HORIZON EUROPE
CIVIL SECURITY FOR SOCIETY

CROSS CUTTING ASPECTS
“Cross-cutting issues”

**Gender dimension in R&I content**
Addressing the gender dimension in research and innovation entails taking into account sex and gender in the whole research & innovation process.

**Social Sciences and Humanities**
Assessing the effective *contribution of social science and humanities disciplines* and expertise as part of the scientific methodology of the project.

**International Cooperation**
To achieve the right balance between the need to exchange with key international partners (including with relevant international organisations) while at the same time ensuring the protection of the EU security interest.
Gender dimension in R&I content

Addressing the gender dimension in research and innovation entails taking into account sex and gender in the whole research & innovation process.

The integration of the gender dimension into R&I content is mandatory, unless it is explicitly mentioned in the topic description. A proposal not properly addressing gender dimension might receive a lower evaluation score.

From the CL3 Work Programme:

In this topic the integration of the gender dimension (sex and gender analysis) in research and innovation content should be addressed only if relevant in relation to the objectives of the research effort.

Topics flagged as not gender relevant:

- FCT-01-01
- FCT-01-07
- INFRA-01-01
- SSRI-01-01
- SSRI-01-02
- FCT-01-08
Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

Assessing the effective contribution of social science and humanities disciplines and expertise as part of the scientific methodology of the project.

When the integration of SSH is required, applicants have to show the roles of these disciplines or provide a justification if they consider that it is not relevant for their project. A proposal without a sufficient integration of SSH research and competences might receive a lower evaluation score.

From the CL3 Work Programme:

This topic requires the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related innovation activities.
International Cooperation

To achieve the right balance between the need to exchange with key international partners (including with relevant international organisations) while at the same time ensuring the protection of the EU security interest

Cooperation can include sharing knowledge, experiences, expertise and mutual learning

International cooperation is explicitly encouraged only where appropriate and specifically supporting ongoing collaborative activities

From the CL3 Work Programme:

*In order to achieve the expected outcomes, international cooperation is also encouraged.*
Significant simplification potential

- Despite all simplification, funding based on reimbursement of incurred costs remains complex and error-prone
- Lump sum project funding removes all obligations on actual cost reporting and financial ex-post audits – i.e. a major reduction of administrative burden
- Access to the programme becomes easier, especially for small organisations and newcomers

Focus on content

- Less focus on financial management, and more focus on the scientific-technical content of projects
Final Tips!

✓ Check carefully (including additional!) admissibility and eligibility conditions
✓ Read carefully the topic description ("scope", "expected impact") – will your proposal match the expectations?
✓ Fill in the proposal templates by following the instructions
✓ Fill in properly the mandatory annexes!
✓ Address thoroughly the selection and award criteria
✓ Respect the page limits
✓ Clearly describe what you will achieve and how you will do it
✓ Choose your consortium based on your project needs (e.g. no duplications or partners without clear responsibilities,...)
✓ Describe carefully the impact (expected, societal, economic [IA: business analysis, market potential,...])
✓ Submit (a first version) well before the final deadline
Research Enquiry Service

For questions about research and Horizon Europe, you can contact the Research Enquiry Service via the webform:

[Research Enquiry Service (europa.eu)]
Thank you