

Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society

Destination
“Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe”

CALL

DISASTER-RESILIENT SOCIETY (DRS)

2025



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Core Values of Our Strategy

Policy Alignment

Ensure that security R&I maintains the focus on the final use of its outcomes in alignment with policy priorities.

Future Security & Preparedness

Contribute to forward-looking planning of EU practitioner capabilities to anticipate future threats.

Social Compatibility

Ensure the development of innovative security technologies that are socially compatible.

Industrial Growth

Pave the way for industrialisation, commercialisation, acquisition, and deployment of successful R&I outcomes.

EU Sovereignty

Safeguard EU Strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty by strengthening the security industrial base.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Need to ensure links among different disaster risk reduction policies and networks of actors of various horizons and disciplines from “upstream” (research) to “downstream” (practitioners)



NETWORKS

International organizations.
End-Users
Practitioners, policy

MARKET UPTAKE

Industry
Start-up / SME

POLICY FRAMEWORK

UN Sendai Framework for Action
(Disaster Risk Reduction – UNDRR)

UNION CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM

NATURAL HAZARDS

Earthquakes
Floods
Storms

Storms
Wildfires

DG ECHO

MAN-INCLUDED RISKS

Industrial nuclear accidents
Terrorism

Health

DG HOME

CBRNe Action Plan

Union Policies
EU mechanisms
EU Adaptation Strategy

PREPAREDNESS UNION STRATEGY

EU INTERNAL SECURITY STRATEGY

Policy sectors, research, industry / SME, practitioners, civil society

Destination “Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe”

Strategic Focus:

- Supports EC priorities (2024–2029): *Preparedness Union, Safer Europe, Resilient Economy*
- Aligns with: EU Disaster Resilience Goals, Sendai Framework, SDGs, UCPM
- Bridges R&I with deployment: ISF, ERDF, UCPM, rescEU
- **Expected impacts of the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2024-2027:**
 - *reduction of losses from natural, accidental and human-made disasters* will be pursued in continuity with the strategic plan 2021-2024.
- **Specific impacts include:**
 - **Greater involvement of citizens and local/regional authorities** in research and related actions, especially to raise risk awareness and improve disaster prevention and preparedness, including youth education.
 - **Better disaster risk governance across all phases** (prevention to recovery), using updated risk assessments, improved decision-making, and greater use of innovative solutions, from international to local levels.
 - **Stronger first responder capabilities in all types of disasters** (natural, human-made, or hybrid), including tool and technology validation during real operations and proving their ability to work together effectively.

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Key EU Objectives Supported:

- ❑ Tackle **multi-hazard risks** (climate, CBRN-E, pandemics, hybrid threats)
- ❑ Strengthen **first & second responder capabilities**
- ❑ Support **CBRN preparedness & medical countermeasures**
- ❑ Empower **citizens & local actors** in prevention & response

Expected Project Features:

- Clear **multi-level governance** strategy (local–EU)
- Involve **responders, NGOs, CSOs, SMEs**
- Build on past EU/national projects – avoid duplication
- Emphasize **training, awareness, communication**
- Deliver **tested, interoperable tools** with high TRL goals
- Define **uptake, testing & data strategies** from start

Destination “Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe” (Disaster-Resilient Society – DRS)

TOPICS CALL 2025



HORIZON-CL3-2025-DRS-01-01: Open topic on citizen and regional and/or local authorities' engagement in enhanced disaster risk awareness, including education, and preparedness (RIA)

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved disaster preparedness, learning from past disasters or crises, and better sharing of knowledge on lessons learned and risk awareness to citizens and regional and/or local authorities, understanding what countermeasures were taken in previous incidents and exploring currently available products to improve future outcomes;
- Reinforced dialogue and cooperation among scientific and technical communities, stakeholders, policy-makers and regional and/or local communities in disaster risk reduction for an enhanced uptake of research outputs.
- Proposals are expected to address one of the following options:
 - **Option a:** Tools and solutions to improve disaster preparedness and risk awareness by citizens and regional and/or local authorities;
 - **Option b:** Mechanism to enhance dialogue among research/academic communities, practitioners and regional and/or local authorities for sharing knowledge and effectively uptake research results.

Total indicative budget: 12 M€ (3 grants) - This topic requires the active involvement, as beneficiaries, of at least 2 Regional and/or Local Authorities, at least 2 organisations representing citizens or regional and/or local communities and 2 First responders or disaster management authorities from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

HORIZON-CL3-2025-DRS-01-02: Open topic on improving disaster risk management and governance to ensure self-sufficiency and sustainability of operations in support of enhanced resilience (RIA)

Expected Outcomes:

- Better understanding of the impact of disasters and crises, and improved early warnings and long-term planning linked to natural causes or to human-made threats (including CBRN) on risk governance, including emergency services, regional and/or local authorities, and citizen volunteers, and improved adaptation and resilience of emergency systems for disaster prevention and preparedness – especially in a multi-risk environment with cascading disasters.
- Proposals are expected to address one of the following options:
 - **Option a:** Enhanced impact forecasting and early warning systems, understanding of climate / weather extreme events and geohazards and adaptation of emergency systems for disaster prevention and preparedness;
 - **Option b:** Enhanced impact forecasting and understanding of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRN-E) threats and adaptation of emergency systems for disaster prevention preparedness and response (including medical countermeasures). Projects do not need to address all elements of CBRN-E.

Total indicative budget: 10.5 M€ (3 grants) - This topic requires the active involvement, as beneficiaries, of at least 2 Regional and/or Local Authorities, 1 disaster management authority and 1 Volunteers Organisation from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

HORIZON-CL3-2025-DRS-01-03: Open topic on testing / validating tools, technologies and data used in cross-border prevention, preparedness and responses to climate extreme and geological events and chemical, biological or radiological emergency threats (RIA)

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced European and global interoperability of existing tools and technologies and improved capacities to prevent, better prepare and respond to different types of disasters (natural and human-made) by various practitioners (e.g., firefighters, medical responders, civil protection).
- Proposals are expected to address one of the following options focused on testing / validation of tools and technologies, and demonstration of their interoperability:
 - **Option a:** Use of artificial intelligence (AI) / machine learning (ML) tools to support first responder's analysis, planning and decision-making;
 - **Option b:** Miniaturized sensors for threat detection and victim identification;
 - **Option c:** Information exchange / Communication among first responders in a reliable, secure and universal way, and cross-border emergency communications;
 - **Option d:** Alert system to detect CBRN threats, integrating different systems at national, regional and European levels.

Total indicative budget: 13.5 M€ (3 grants) - This topic requires the active involvement, as beneficiaries, of at least 2 first responders or disaster management authorities and 2 SMEs from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

HORIZON-CL3-2025-DRS-01-04: Advancing autonomous systems and robotics for high-risk disaster response, strengthening disaster resilience in conflict-afflicted crisis zones (IA)

- **Objective:** Develop and test autonomous systems to enhance operational capacity, safety, and resilience of first responders in extreme, conflict-driven environments.
- **Expected Outcomes:**
 - Multi-function autonomous systems for search & rescue, hazard detection, supply delivery
 - Enhanced remote sensing & situational awareness for safer decision-making
 - Navigation & victim search in low-visibility/conflict zones (e.g. smoke, rubble)
 - Real-world testing & responder training for deployment
 - TRL 6–8 technologies ready for operational use

Total indicative budget: 5 M€ (1 grant) - This topic requires the active involvement, as beneficiaries, of at least three first responders' organisations or agencies from at least three different EU Member States or Associated Countries, including Ukraine.



Thank you!

HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>

#EUsecurityResearch

Cluster 3



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