



#HorizonEU

# THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

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## Strengthened Security R&I SSRI

*FILIPPO GIACINTI  
SSRI AREA COORDINATOR  
DG HOME - INNOVATION AND SECURITY RESEARCH  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION*

Research and  
Innovation

# HE CLUSTER 3: Civil Security for Society

- A work programme structured in 6 destinations



*Capability-based approach*

*End-User oriented*

*Synergies and market creation*

*Societal dimension*

# SSRI Destination: Policy context and specific impacts

## Stronger pillars of security Research and Innovation

- A more effective and efficient **evidence-based** development of EU civil security capabilities built on a stronger, more **systematic** and **analysis-intensive** security R&I **cycle**

## Increased Innovation uptake of security R&I outcomes

- **Increased industrialisation, commercialisation, adoption and deployment** of successful outcomes of security research reinforces the competitiveness and resilience of EU security technology and industrial base

## Cross-cutting knowledge for common security solutions

- **R&I-enabled knowledge and value in cross-cutting matters** reduces sector specific bias and breaks thematic silos that impede the proliferation of common security solutions

# Strengthened Security R&I (SSRI)

- EU investment for the development of capabilities supporting policy priorities
  - Innovation can be decisive: modernisation / effectiveness / efficiency
  - **Uptake of innovation remains a challenge**

## Hindering & Enabling factors\*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ● Protection and clarity of IP rights                | ● Funding mechanisms                           |
| ● Quality of information flows & sharing             | ● Communication & dissemination of information |
| ● Market fragmentation                               | ● Procurement mechanisms                       |
| ● Insufficient output maturity for uptake            | ● End-user involvement                         |
| ● Lack of foresight & evolving end user requirements | ● Partnerships & collaboration                 |
| ● Challenges associated with public acceptance       | ● Testing & demonstrations                     |
| ● Challenges of an institutional market              |  |

\*Findings from the Study on Factors Influencing the Uptake of EU-Funded Security Research Outcomes



Create a favourable environment to generate specific knowledge



Foster a structured dialogue and coordinated action among market actors;



Exploit catalysts of uptake



Conduct cross-cutting security research.

# SSRI Destination

| Code            | Topic   | mEUR | mEUR per grant | Type of Action |
|-----------------|---|------|----------------|----------------|
| 2025-SSRI-01-01 | National Contact Points (NCPs) in the field of security and cybersecurity fostering the links with National Community building for Safe, Secure and Resilient Societies | 3    | 3              | CSA            |
| 2025-SSRI-01-02 | Uptake Acceleration Services  | 5    | 5              | CSA            |
| 2025-SSRI-01-03 | Open grounds for pre-commercial procurement of innovative security technologies   | 2    | 1              | CSA            |
| 2025-SSRI-01-04 | Accelerating uptake through open proposals for advanced SME innovation  | 3    | 1.5            | IA 6-8         |
| 2025-SSRI-01-05 | Data repository for security research and innovation  | 3    | 3              | IA             |
| 2025-SSRI-01-06 | Demand-led innovation for civil security through Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)   | 5.5  | 5.5            | PCP 6-8        |

# 2025-SSRI-01-01: National Contact Points (NCPs) in the field of security and cybersecurity fostering the links with National Community building for Safe, Secure and Resilient Societies

| Topics                             | Type of Action | Budgets (EUR million) | Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) | Number of projects expected to be funded |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
|                                    |                | 2025                  |  |  |
| <b>HORIZON-CL3-2025-SSRI-01-01</b> | <b>CSA</b>     | 3                     | 3  | 1  |

## Expected Outcomes:

- Improved and professionalised NCP service of knowledge, experience and skills, consistent across Europe, thereby helping simplify access to Horizon Europe calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of proposals submitted;
- Harmonised and improved trans-national cooperation between NCPs, and support of National communities for research and innovation in the area of security that can collect input from practitioners, industrial partners and convey capability needs.; Increased cooperation of NCPs with seamless collaboration of the national initiatives, with the EU initiatives, namely CERIS;
- Periodic and timely evidence-based feedback in support to EU-funded security research programming enabled by a seamless integration of the national, regional and local dimensions of security Research and Innovation into the EU picture;
- A systematic assessment of the needs of the various stakeholders involved in the areas of security and increase the visibility of capability needs, gaps, and technology solutions expressed by national, regional and local communities;
- Improvement of the awareness of EU funding opportunities relevant for civil security research and innovation;
- Improvement of the awareness of innovation-uptake success stories stemming from the participation of national players in EU-funded security research projects;
- Reduced geographical fragmentation of the civil security research and innovation community via the cooperation with the various initiatives of National Communities of security research and innovation with the participation of stakeholders from the security ecosystem, that are set up and running in the different Member States or Associated Countries.

## 2025-SSRI-01-02: Uptake Acceleration Services

| Topics                      | Type of Action | Budgets (EUR million) | Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) | Number of projects expected to be funded |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
|                             |                | 2025                  |  |  |
| HORIZON-CL3-2025-SSRI-01-02 | CSA            | 5                     | 5  | 1  |

### Expected Outcomes:

- To offer advanced services on innovation uptake to the security community;
- To provide a self-sustained mechanism for advanced advisory and support services, to act as a market catalyst; and to accelerate the uptake of innovation for security;
- Enhanced cooperation between research institutions, smaller private research agencies, security practitioners, Start-ups and SMEs to support innovation uptake;
- Strengthening the technology transfer from research to the market and strengthening of security ecosystem. Supporting Start-ups and SME to reach the security market and strengthen the capacity of security practitioners to uptake innovative tools from the security market.

## 2025-SSRI-01-03: Open grounds for pre-commercial procurement of innovative security technologies

| Topics                      | Type of Action | Budgets (EUR million) | Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) | Number of projects expected to be funded |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
|                             |                | 2025                  |  |  |
| HORIZON-CL3-2025-SSRI-01-03 | CSA            | 2                     | 1  | 2  |

### Expected Outcomes:

- Consolidated demand for innovative security technologies built on the aggregation of public buyers with a common need expressed in functional and/or operational terms without prescribing technical solutions;
- Better informed decision-making related to investment in innovative security technologies based on a better understanding of the potential EU-based supply of technical alternatives that could address common needs of EU public buyers;
- Better informed decision-making related to investment in innovative security technologies based on an improved visibility of the potential demand in the EU market for common security technologies;
- Increased capacity of EU public procurers to align requirements with industry and future products and to attract innovation and innovators from security and other sectors through common validation strategies, rapid innovation, experimentation and pre-commercial procurement;
- Increased innovation capacity of EU public procurers through the availability of innovative tendering guidance, commonly agreed validation strategies and evidence-based prospects of further joint procurement of common security solutions.



## 2025-SSRI-01-04: Accelerating uptake through open proposals for advanced SME innovation

| Topics                      | Type of Action | Budgets (EUR million) | Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) | Number of projects expected to be funded |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
|                             |                | 2025                  |  |  |
| HORIZON-CL3-2025-SSRI-01-04 | IA             | 3                     | 1.5  | 2  |

### Expected Outcomes:

- Development of a mature technological solution addressing EU security policy priorities in the areas addressed by the Cluster 3 work programme and in particular the destination of fighting crime and terrorism, disaster resilient societies, border management and resilient infrastructure;
- Facilitated access to civil security market for small innovators;
- Improved cooperation between public buyers and small supply market actors for a swifter uptake of innovation in response to short to mid-term needs;
- Stronger partnerships between small and medium EU security industry and technology actors to ensure the sustainability of the EU innovation capacity in the civil security domain and reduce technological dependencies from non-EU suppliers in critical security areas.

# 2025-SSRI-01-04: Accelerating uptake through open proposals for advanced SME innovation

**Applicants are invited to submit proposals for technology development along with the following principles:**

- Focus on mature technological solutions addressing EU security policy priorities in the areas addressed by the Cluster 3 work programme.
- Not overlapping with the scope of the topics included in the other destinations of this work programme.
- Fostering collaboration between SMEs from different Member States and Associated Countries.
- Involving security end-users in the role of validator and potential first-adopter of the proposed innovations.
- Fostering collaboration schemes between small companies and research and technology organisations and/or big industrial players aimed at fostering innovative technology transfer or creating innovative business models that facilitate access to market and strengthen the innovation capacity of EU SMEs and start-ups in the domain of civil security.

**Consortia must include, as beneficiaries:**

- A minimum of three (3) to a maximum of seven (7) partners.
- At least 2 SMEs from 2 different Member States.
- At least 1 end-user organisation in the areas addressed by the proposal, namely one of the following options:

1. Option A "Fighting Organised Crime and Terrorism"
2. Option B "Disaster-Resilient Society"
3. Option C "Resilient Infrastructure" and
4. Option D "Border Management", provided that the applications attain all thresholds.

Participation of non-SME industries and Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) is not excluded, but it must be limited to 15% of the budget.

At least 50% of the budget must be allocated to SMEs.

## 2025-SSRI-01-05: Data repository for security research and innovation

| Topics                      | Type of Action | Budgets (EUR million) | Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) | Number of projects expected to be funded |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
|                             |                | 2025                  |  |  |
| HORIZON-CL3-2025-SSRI-01-05 | IA             | 3                     | 3  | 1  |

### Expected Outcomes:

- Accurately gathered, stored, managed and preserved research training and testing data, disaggregated by gender if relevant, which is verified and selected in order to be realistic, up-to-date and sufficient, as well as to make research more trustworthy and reproducible;
- Researchers and projects can further increase the impact and visibility of their work by not just archiving research materials, but also opening them up for reuse and citation by other relevant actors and stakeholders;
- Properly shared and re-used relevant research data can save lives, help develop solutions and maximise the knowledge;
- Enhanced collaboration among relevant research community, improved trust between researchers and practitioners/end-users, facilitated co-operation between different research projects and reduced burden of wasted research or lost results.

## 2025-SSRI-01-06: Demand-led innovation for civil security through Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)

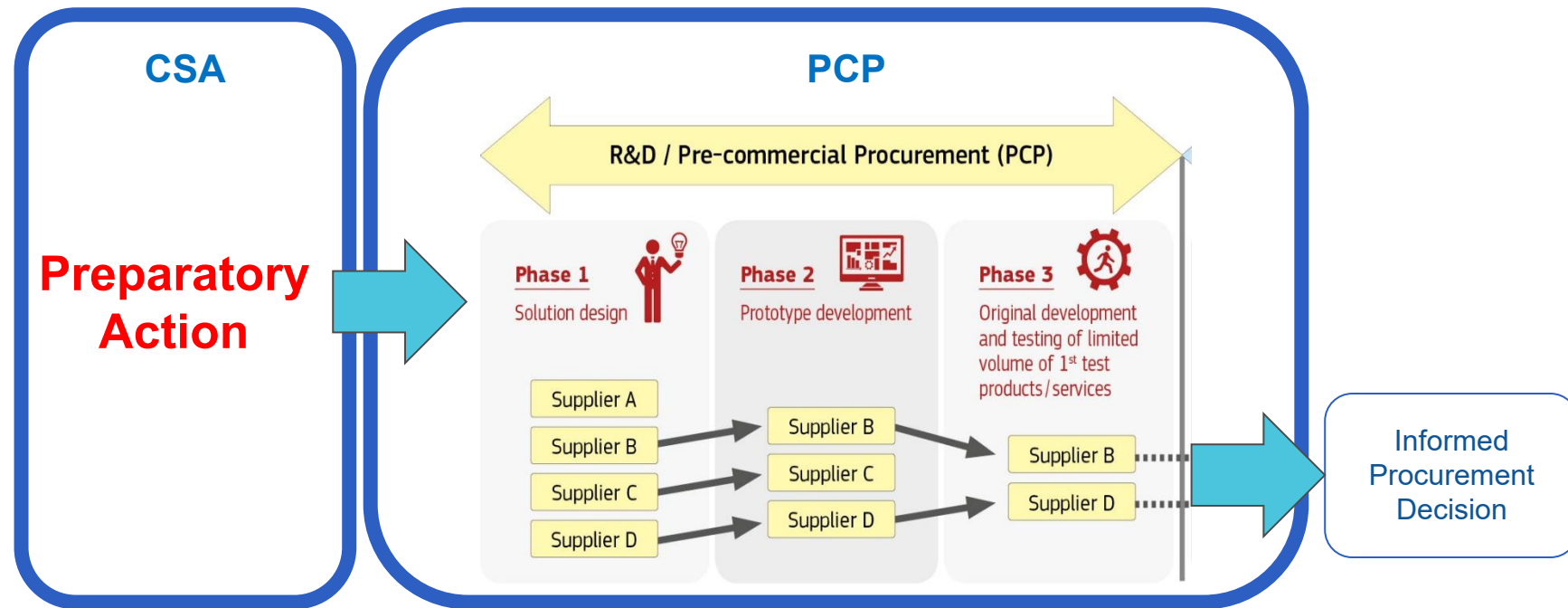
| Topics                      | Type of Action | Budgets (EUR million) | Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million) | Number of projects expected to be funded |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
|                             |                | 2025                  |  |  |
| HORIZON-CL3-2025-SSRI-01-06 | PCP            | 5.5                   | 5.5  | 1  |

### Expected Outcomes:

- A community of EU civil security practitioners with shared needs for innovative technology solutions, supported by an industrial base in particular SMEs and Startups, to access the public procurement market and scale up their business;
- Procurers facilitate the commercialisation of innovative solutions by their successful suppliers through providing them with first customer references for the validation and first pilot deployment;
- Increased opportunities for wide market uptake and economies of scale for the supply side through increased demand for innovative solutions, wide publication of results and where relevant contribution to standardisation, regulation or certification;
- Supporting public procurers, to collectively implement PCPs to drive innovation from the demand side and open up wider commercialisation opportunities for companies in Europe to take or maintain international leadership in new markets that can deliver innovative solutions.

# Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)

- PCP projects contribute to overcoming barriers to innovation uptake in civil security
- A two-stage approach for the implementation of PCP for security



- Proposals that provide clear evidence on a number of aspects and justify / de-risk the future PCP action → **are invited to apply for a PCP.** (e.g. include the Open Market Consultation in at least 3 MS).

# The (theoretical) Benefits of PCP:

## Suppliers

- **Access to new/small players**
- Shorter Time to market
- Faster company growth
- Attract investors

- **New cross-border markets**
- Increased export
- Global competitiveness

## Policy makers

- **Implement political priorities**
- Modernize public services
- **Improve innovation ecosystem**
- Attract (controlled) foreign investment
- Create growth and jobs

- **Shared risks & benefits**
- Economies of scale
- **First customers**

**Win-win-Win!!**

- Better Quality / Price
- **Lower risk of modernization**

- **Shape product development to public needs**
- Increase technology knowledge
- Reduce risk in commercial tendering
- **Reduce supplier lock-in**

- Usage / Licensing rights
- **'First time right' product**
- 'EU interoperable'
- **Reduce unforeseen expenditure**

## Procurers

# 2025-SSRI-01-06: Demand-led innovation for civil security through Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)

- CSA -> Pre-Commercial Procurement action.
- Oriented to the acquisition of R&D services for the development of innovative technologies, systems, tools or techniques to enhance border security, to fight against crime and terrorism, to protect infrastructure and public spaces, and/or to make societies more resilient against natural or human-made disasters.

This topic requires the participation, as beneficiaries, of at least 3 practitioners and 3 public procurers from 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

## But why are PCPs important?

- Provide **innovative solutions to practitioners** tested and tailored on their needs
- Boosting **business opportunities for SMEs and startups**
- **More efficient, higher quality solutions** solving real-life problems
- **Reinforces strategic autonomy** through 'made in Europe' solutions

# More Information and resources



[ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy](#)



[Community for European Research and Innovation for Security \(CERIS\)](#)



[Security Research Event](#)



[National Contact points for EU security research](#)



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[EUHomeAffairs](#)



[EU security research: 20 years of innovation, impact, and success](#)



[Enhancing security through R&I CSWD\(2021\)422](#)



[Frontex on EU research](#)



[Eu-LISA on EU research](#)



[EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security](#)



[Horizon Europe Cluster 3 “Civil Security for Society” \(2025 published Work Programme\)](#)

[&](#)



[Cluster 3 Info Day and brokerage event 2025](#)

[EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)





# Thank you!

## # HorizonEU

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

## #EUsecurityResearch

Cluster 3



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