EUROPEAN UNION

#HorizonEU

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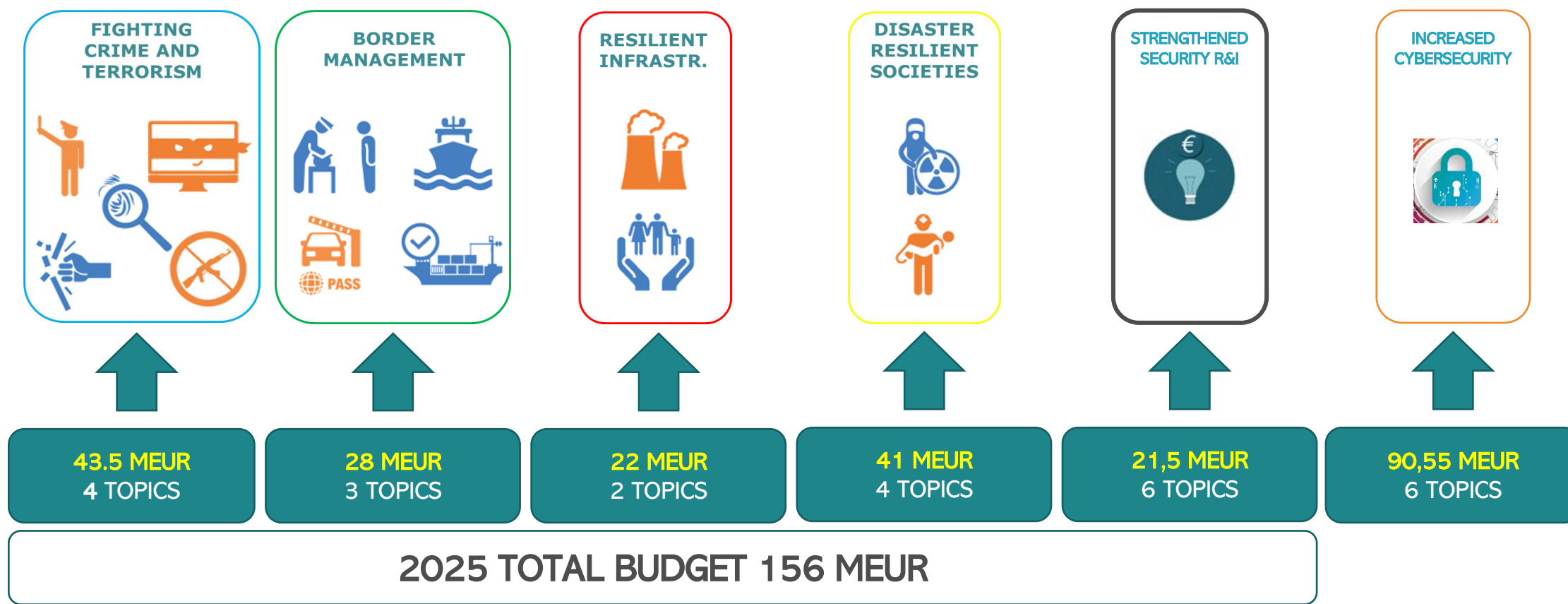
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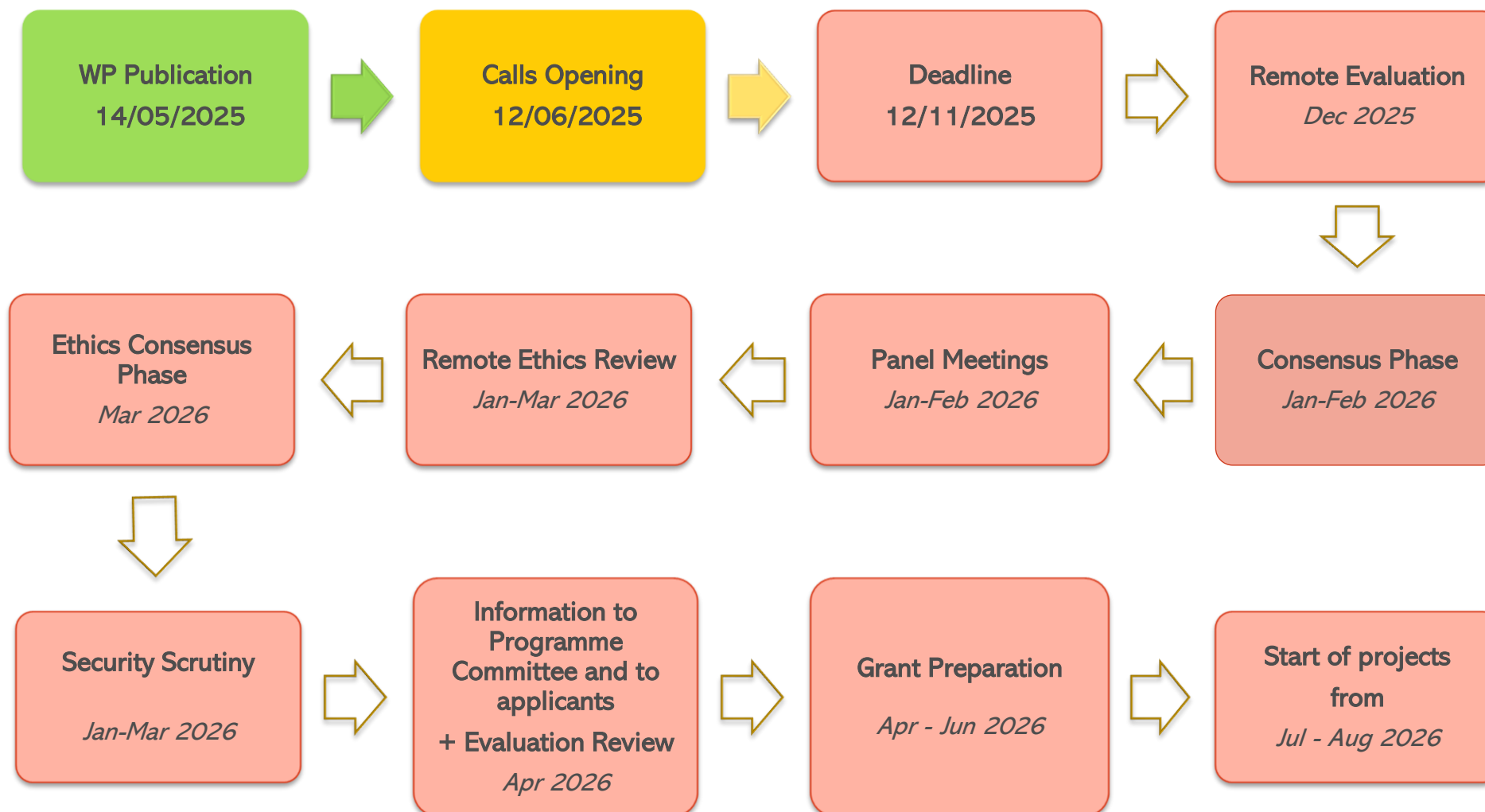
Cristina LONGO & Davide BRIZZOLARA
REA C2 Call Coordinators

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THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME 2021 - 2027

"Civil Security for Society" Work Programme 2025

FIGHTING CRIME AND TERRORISM	BORDER MANAGEMENT	RESILIENT INFRASTR.	DISASTER RESILIENT SOCIETIES	STRENGTHENED SECURITY R&I	INCREASED CYBERSECURITY
43.5 MEUR 4 TOPICS	28 MEUR 3 TOPICS	22 MEUR 2 TOPICS	41 MEUR 4 TOPICS	21,5 MEUR 6 TOPICS	90,55 MEUR 6 TOPICS

2025 TOTAL BUDGET 156 MEUR

European Commission

2025 Call evaluation - Timeline of main steps

WP Publication
14/05/2025

→

Calls Opening
12/06/2025

→

Deadline
12/11/2025

→

Remote Evaluation
Dec 2025

↓

Ethics Consensus Phase
Mar 2026

←

Remote Ethics Review
Jan-Mar 2026

←

Panel Meetings
Jan-Feb 2026

←

Consensus Phase
Jan-Feb 2026

↓

Security Scrutiny
Jan-Mar 2026

→

Information to Programme Committee and to applicants
+ Evaluation Review
Apr 2026

→

Grant Preparation
Apr - Jun 2026

→

Start of projects from
Jul - Aug 2026

European Commission

Standard evaluation process

12/11/2025

Eligibility/Admissibility checks

EU Staff check if the proposal is admissible and eligible

European Commission
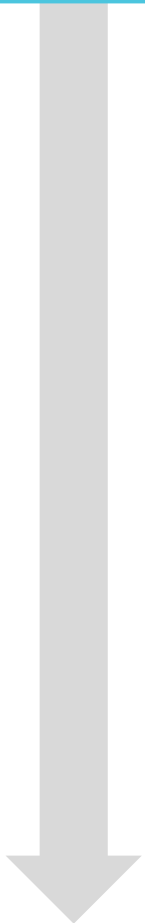
HE - Admissibility

General admissibility conditions

Admissibility is checked by EU staff. Applications must:

- be complete and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents
- be readable, accessible and printable
- include a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities

Proposal page limit

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

CSAs: limit for a full application is **30** pages (**33** 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

European Commission

HE - Admissibility

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).

HE - General eligibility conditions

Consortium composition (collaborative projects)

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**

CSA

- At least one independent legal entity, which may be established in a **Member State or Associated Country**

PCP

- three independent legal entities as beneficiaries as explained above, out of which a minimum of two beneficiaries must be independent legal entities that are **public procurers***, each established in a different Member State or Associated Country and with at least one of them established in a Member State.

*'Public procurers' are organisations that are contracting authorities or contracting entities as defined in EU public procurement directives 2014/24/EU, 2014/25/EU, and 2009/81/E.

Source: Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025 14. General Annexes

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

Source: Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025 14. General Annexes

HE CL3 - Additional eligibility conditions

- The participation of **practitioners** (or other categories of participants) is a **mandatory criterion**

- Each topic includes a specific description of the additional eligibility conditions that must be fulfilled by the applicants

- **Failing to meet the additional eligibility conditions means that the proposal is not evaluated in its content by the experts**

NB: on average 15% of applicants fail to properly address these conditions

European Commission

HE CL3 - Additional eligibility conditions

- Specific for each topic, it can be found in the table of the specific conditions

- Only consortium beneficiaries can be considered towards the fulfilment of the additional eligibility conditions i.e. affiliated entities and associated partners do not count

- One beneficiary means one independent legal entity

- One beneficiary can only be considered as one type of practitioner i.e. different departments of the same legal entity cannot represent different practitioners

HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-FCT-01: Open topic on modern information and forensic evidence analysis and on frontline policing

Call: Civil Security for Society	
Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 18.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: This topic requires the active involvement, as beneficiaries, of at least 2 Police Authorities[23] from at least 2 different EU Member States or Associated Countries. For these participants, applicants must fill in the table "Information about security practitioners" in the application form with all the requested information, following the template provided in the submission IT tool. If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).

HE CL3 - Additional eligibility criteria

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

European Commission

Additional eligibility conditions

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 with practitioner status which are relevant to fulfil the additional eligibility criteria.

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

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

  ➢ In DRS-02, DRS-03: legal entities established in LAC (Latin America/African/Caribbean) as well as Central Asian Countries are exceptionally eligible for Union funding

SPECIFIC CASES

- Affiliated entities established in countries eligible for funding, EU bodies (unless provided for otherwise in their basic act), International European research organisations

European Commission

HE - Eligibility - Specific restrictions

➢ **Restrictions on participation in Innovation Actions**

<u>Legal entities established in China are not eligible</u> to participate in Horizon Europe <u>Innovation Actions</u> 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 <u>high-risk suppliers* of mobile network communication equipment</u> (and any entities they own or control) are <u>not eligible to participate as beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners</u>.

*More information can be found in the EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity

Source: Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025 14. General Annexes

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 - not eligible to participate in any capacity.

Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary - not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc.)

European Commission

HE - Activities eligible for funding

Eligible activities are the ones described in the call and topic conditions.
Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic description for which it is submitted.

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.

European Commission

Standard evaluation process

12/11/2025

Eligibility/Admissibility checks

EU Staff check if the proposal is admissible and eligibile

Individual evaluation

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

Consensus Phase

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

Panel Review

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

European Commission

Evaluation Criteria (RIA/IA)

Excellence

- ✓ 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.

- ✓ Soundness of the proposed **methodology**, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the **gender dimension** 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

Impact

- ✓ Credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.

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

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

Evaluation Criteria (CSA)

Excellence

- ✓ Clarity and pertinence of the project objectives

- ✓ Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of the methodology

Impact

- ✓ Credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.

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

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.

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.

Scoring, thresholds and weighting

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

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

✓ **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).

Standard evaluation process

12/11/2025

Eligibility/Admissibility checks
EU Staff check if the proposal is admissible and eligible

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

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

Panel Review
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

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

Finalisation
The Commission/Agency reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the **final ranking list**

European Commission

Application form (proposal template)

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

Horizon Europe Programme

Standard Application Form (HE RIA, IA)

Application form (Part A)
Project proposal – Technical description (Part B)

Version 9.0
16 December 2024

European Commission

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. *aration on gender equality plan*

- Ethics self-assessment

- Security questionnaire

- Information on participants' previous activities related to the call

Horizon Europe Programme
Standard Application Form (HE RIA, IA)

Application form (Part A)

Version 2.0
21 January 2022

Disclaimer
This document is aimed at informing potential applicants for Horizon Europe funding. It serves only as an example. The actual Web forms and templates, provided in the online submission system under the Funding and Tenders Portal, might differ from this example.

European Commission

Structure of the proposal template

PART B

- Excellence
- Impact
- Quality and efficiency of the Implementation

In addition, the templates include:

- Glossary of terms to ensure consistency
- Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section

Annexes:

1. Information on security issues
2. Information on practitioners
3. Lump Sum table (if relevant)
4. Information on financial support to third parties (if relevant)

Horizon Europe Programme

Standard Application Form (HE RIA and IA)

Project proposal – Technical description (Part B)

Version 4.0
16 December 2024

Annex Information on security Issues

Annex to fill in and include in your proposal (mandatory)

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**

INFORMATION ON SECURITY ISSUES (SECURITY SECTION)

(If part of your Application Form, this section must be pre-filled already at proposal stage (not counted towards the page-limit). If not part of the Application Form, it will be provided to you during grant preparation. It will then become part of your Grant Agreement (in Annex 1, Description of Action) and will become binding.

⚠ *Do NOT delete any text. All the subsections should remain but marked as not applicable (N/A) if not relevant for your project.*

⚠ *In order to fill in the template, please consult first the guidance How to handle security-sensitive projects and Classification of information in Horizon Europe projects.*

Summary of the project security issues

Describe the security issues you identified in your project. Focus on the security subject matters and explain the potential misuse of the research results. Relate to the security-sensitive type of activities as explained in the guidance *(see How to handle security-sensitive projects)*.

1. Sensitive information with security recommendation

If your project involves sensitive information requiring limited dissemination due to security reasons, fill in the 'Sensitive information with security recommendation' table below.

⚠ Please be aware:

- In principle, third parties, i.e. outside the consortium and the granting authority, should have no access to sensitive deliverables with security recommendation.

- However, when it is known in advance that a specific pre-identified group of recipients/recipients with an established need-to-know exists, you should insert them in the table.

- You should conduct an assessment of the recipients' need-to-know, which should be made available to the granting authority, if requested.

- The 'Sensitive information with security recommendation' table may be modified throughout the project duration. Any modification can be done only with the prior formal written approval of the granting authority.

- The table below should not include information that is sensitive for non-security related reasons (e.g. intellectual property or commercial secrets, etc).

Sensitive information with security recommendation			
Number and name of the deliverable	Name of lead participant	Date of production	Name of entity authorised for access

Add as many rows as needed.

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.

EU Grants: Info about security practitioners (HE): V3.0 – 15.07.2024

INFORMATION ABOUT SECURITY PRACTITIONERS

(To be filled in and uploaded in the Portal Submission System as part of the application.

⚠ *The information must be provided for beneficiaries that are security practitioners within the meaning of the topic conditions. It is NOT needed for other types of project participants (such as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors, etc) – even if they fulfil the criteria.*

It will be used to demonstrate the additional eligibility criterion to demonstrate practitioners' involvement as required in the topic conditions.

⚠ *Projects that do not fulfil these criteria will be rejected.)*

INFORMATION ABOUT SECURITY PRACTITIONERS

Project name and acronym:	[project title] — [acronym]		
Participant number and short name *(same as on Submission System screens)*	**Category of practitioner** *(police authority, first-responder, fire-brigade, etc.)*	**Department/ service/ units that will contribute**	**In which role(s) will the participant contribute to the action? How does this serve the aim of the eligibility condition as outlined in topic conditions?**
[number] — [short name]			
[number] — [short name]			
[number] — [short name]			

Annex Information on financial support to third parties

- Available for download on the portal when the application is created

- To be uploaded with the proposal (if relevant for the topic)

- Information to be included is specified in the first section entitled "Financial Support in the form of a grant awarded after a call for proposals"

- The amount can be adapted up to the maximum amount as indicated in the topic description

- The other sections are not relevant in the 2025 calls and can be ignored

INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES

For calls that allow 'Financial support to third parties', project participants must add this document to the application and upload it as separate annex to the proposal part B in the Submission System.

⚠ *Fill in only the applicable section to your call (Financial support in the form of grants or prizes).*

⚠ *For more information on terms and conditions: see Work Programme General Annexes section B and Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement Articles 6.2.D.1 and 9.4.*

Financial support in the form of a grant awarded after a call for proposals

Where this possibility is indicated under the relevant topic in the Work Programme and in the relevant calls for proposals, provide a description of the use of financial support to third parties. This description must address at least the following:

1. clearly detail the objectives and the results to be obtained and
2. contain the following specifications (as a minimum):
   a) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party; this amount may not exceed 60 000 EUR, unless explicitly mentioned in the Work Programme topic. If your project requires a higher amount per third party than the threshold amount set in the call conditions, justify and explain why this is necessary in order to fulfil your project's objectives.
   b) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support
   c) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list
   d) the persons or categories of persons that may receive financial support, and
   e) the criteria for giving financial support

Please check in the Work Programme and call for proposals if there are other conditions that apply and, if so, include them in the specifications or in any other element of the proposal as appropriate.

For COFUND actions only:

   f) Describe the measures to avoid potential conflicts of interest or unequal treatment of applicants (notably through appropriate communication/exchange of information channels and independent and fair complaints procedures).

   In this respect, and where relevant in the case where the call can be opened also to other beneficiaries of the EU grant or other departments of the same beneficiary, please:

   1. Propose a clear list of beneficiaries (or which department of a beneficiary, where applicable) that will have the responsibility of preparing and launching the co-funded call, including drafting call texts, and managing the award procedure for the co-funded call for proposals;
   2. Identify the beneficiaries (or other departments of the same beneficiary) which can apply for funding under the co-funded call for proposals; and
   3. Provide further details about any specific 'information barriers'[1] and any other measures to be put in place to avoid potential conflicts of interest or unequal treatment of applicants.

   _____
   [1] An example of such "information barriers" could be measures which would aim to avoid the technical possibility for other members of the organisation to access emails, documents received by the staff involved with the preparation of

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 (updated for 2025 call):

- Scope of the application

- **Exceptional funding**

- Activities excluded from funding

- **Exclusive focus on civil applications**

+ 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   Removed for 2025 call
Current status: Yes

+ Exclusive focus on civil applications
Current status: Yes

+ Artificial Intelligence   Removed for 2025 call
Current status: Yes

+ Overall comments

Exceptional funding

- Third country participants (not automatically eligible for funding)

- International organisations

<u>During the evaluation experts give their opinion on the exceptional funding</u>

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

Use of generative AI in proposal preparation

- **Applicants may use generative AI** tools when preparing proposals

- The use of generative AI tools in drafting proposals **may not be considered** by expert evaluators **as a reason to penalize a proposals**

- A disclamer is included in Application Forms (Part B)

Guidance on the use of generative AI tools for the preparation of the proposal

When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tool) and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilized.

Use of generative AI in proposal preparation

- Specifically, applicants are required to:

    - **Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness** of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies.

    - **Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations**, including those generated by the AI tool. Double-check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.

    - **Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism** where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarizing someone else's work.

    - **Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool** in the proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.

European Commission

"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

European Commission

Gender dimension in R&I content

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 will receive a lower evaluation score!

Topics where inclusion of gender dimension is <u>NOT</u> required include the following sentence:

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 <u>not</u> gender relevant

FCT-01

FCT-03

SSRI-03

INFRA-01

SSRI-06

BM-01

DRS-02

European Commission
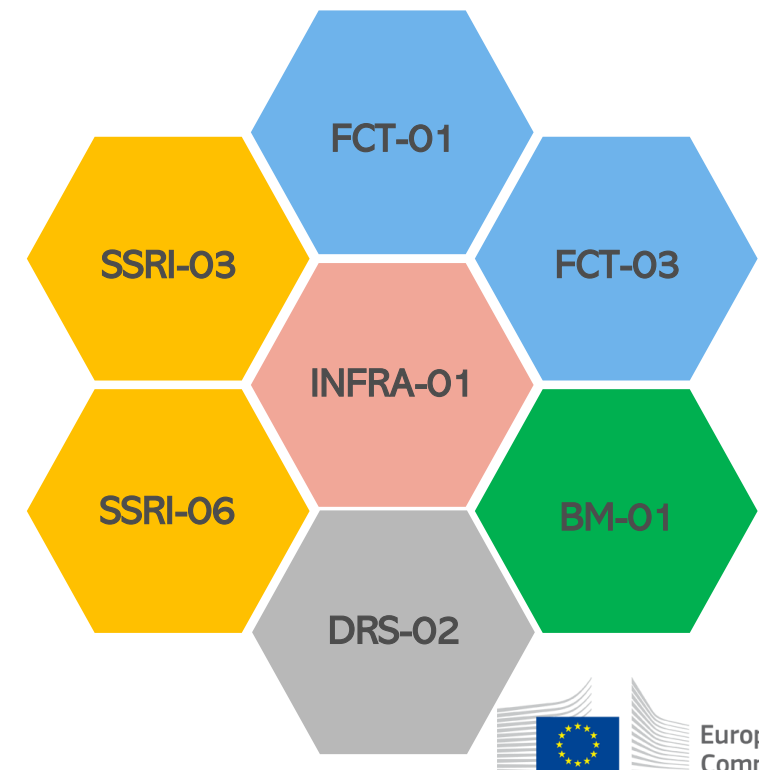
Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

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 will receive a lower evaluation score!

Topics flagged for SSH include the following sentence:

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 related research and innovation activities.

CL3 Topics flagged as SSH relevant

FCT-02

DRS-03

DRS-02

DRS-01

INFRA-02

European Commission
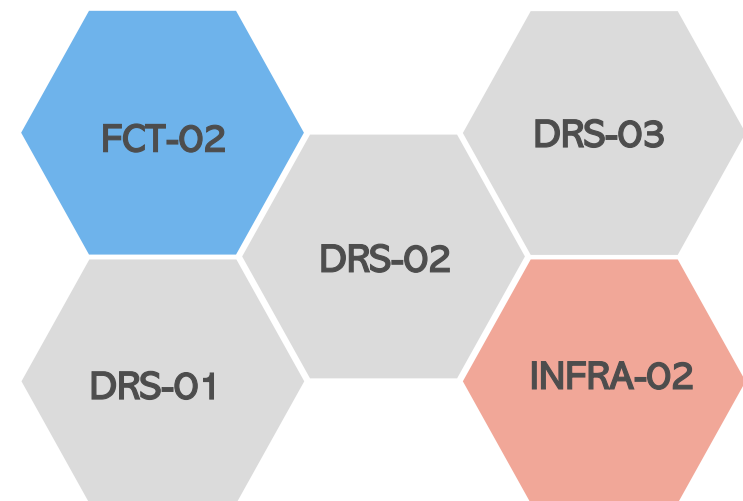
International Cooperation

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

Under the destination 'Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe' (DRS), there is an established culture of comprehensive research collaboration with non-EU countries, taking account of the transnational aspect of different natural and human-made hazards and their causes (such as
climate change).

Therefore, under this destination, international cooperation is strongly encouraged, given the value of cooperating internationally, especially in developing technologies for first responders.

➢ In DRS-02, DRS-03: legal entities established in LAC (Latin America/African/Caribbean) as well as Central Asian Countries are exceptionally eligible for Union funding

Topics including International Cooperation

DRS-01

DRS-02

DRS-03

DRS-04

European Commission

Lump Sum topics

Significant simplification potential

- 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

CL3 Lump Sum Topics

BM-01

SSRI-03

DRS-01

BM-02

SSRI-04

DRS-02

BM-03

DRS-03

European Commission
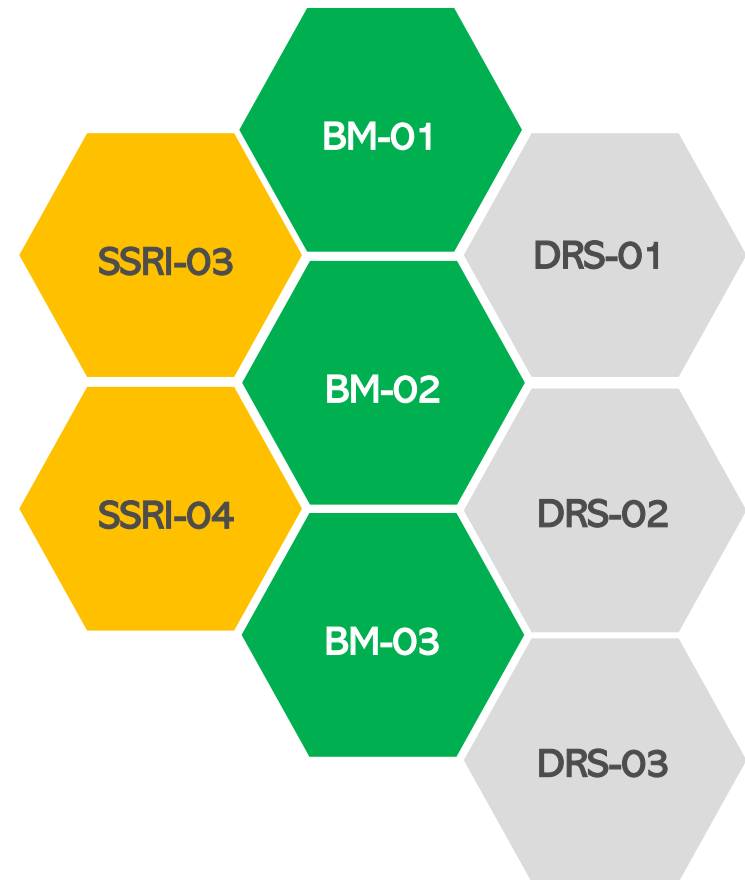
Final Tips!

✓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)](europa.eu)

Thank you

European Commission