ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT Call for proposals

Info Session

DG HOME

European Commission

8th April 2022

Important notice

- This info session will be **recorded and published** in the Funding and Tenders Opportunities portal (FTOP).

- There is **no Q&A foreseen**. Please post your questions in the chat or send them to [HOME-ISF@ec.europa.eu.](mailto:HOME-ISF@ec.europa.eu) We will publish the answers and the recording in the coming days.

- Please **use your organisation's name** to post questions in the chat if you do not want your personal name to be displayed.

Agenda

- 09.30-09.45 - Welcome and introductory information

- 09.45-09.55 - Protection of places of worship

- 09.55-10.05 – Protection of other public spaces, CBRN-E, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), explosives

- 10.05-10.20 - Break

- 10.20-11.00 - Legal, financial and administrative aspects

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ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT Call for proposals

Welcome

Tamara Muñoz

Call Coordinator

Unit E4 – Union Actions and Procurement

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ISF 2022 Protect call – political context

- National security is a competence of the Member States.

- However, the EU wants to support MS in better protecting their citizens and public spaces against terrorist threat.

- Different measures have been adopted at EU level: Action Plan on PPS (2017), the EU Security Union Strategy (2020), Counter-Terrorism Agenda (2020) and EU strategy on combating anti-semitism and fostering Jewish life (2021).

- In this context, this call is aimed at contributing to these EU efforts by attracting excellent projects with EU added value that would, among others: facilitate network-building, encourage public-private cooperation, organise cross-border trainings, increase awareness and improve the overall security of public spaces.

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ISF 2022 PROTECT Call - background

- Follow-up of the 2020 PROTECT Call, whose 3 priorities were:

  - Enhance the **protection of places of worship**;

  - Development and implementation of the good practices listed in the COM SWD "**Good practices to support the protection of public spaces**";

  - Strengthen detection of threats by **detection dogs**.

- **30 proposals** received → **10 projects** selected for funding

- Projects from 21 Member States with an average consortium size of 9 partners

- Budget EUR 20 million

- Expected outcomes of the PROTECT 2022 Call: innovative proposals to avoid repetition of existing projects (do check ongoing projects in FTOP) and wider geographical coverage.

- New generation of Funds and new templates → **read carefully Model Grant Agreement and application form**

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ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT Call for proposals

Introductory information

Inés Bolaños

ISF Call Assistant

Unit E4 – Union Actions and Procurement

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Procedure (I)

- In this info session the Topic Coordinators will cover different elements of the Topic text, without necessarily referring to all its elements.

- This should not be interpreted as if those elements were considered of lesser or not importance.

- **The official Call text is the only legally binding source of information of the Topics.**

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Procedure (II)

- Questions sent via the chat during the info session or to our functional mailbox (HOME-ISF@ec.europa.eu) will be answered in the following days. FAQs are being regularly updated.

- The presentation and recording of this info session will be shared via the **Funding and Tenders Portal** within a few days.

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Further considerations applicable to both Topics of the Call (I)

- Where applicable the proposals should demonstrate how they will effectively build on the relevant **previous or on-going EU funded projects**, including but not limited to, under the Horizon 2020.

- We strongly encourage applicants to include **meetings or activities in Brussels** in their proposals, as well as dissemination products supporting DG HOME's communications efforts, such as factsheets.

- Proposals submitted by a **consortium composed of public and private entities** will be particularly welcome as they will contribute to the successful implementation of the EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces.

- Projects should comply with **EU policy interests and priorities** *(such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc.).*

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Further considerations applicable to both Topics of the Call (II)

- Novelty introduced by the **new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-27**:

  → The **Funds' performance and monitoring framework** (art. 27 of the ISF regulation) applies to projects under direct management too.

- This means that projects awarded under the 2022 PROTECT Call will need to contribute to the performance and monitoring framework of the ISF by providing data according to a set of **output and results indicators.**

- Example of indicator: Number of critical infrastructure/public spaces with new/adapted facilities protecting against security-related risks. See full indicators list in Annex VIII of ISF regulation - Specific objective set out in point (c) of Article 3(2)).

- Data collection will be at the **final report stage,** but we encourage you to familiarise yourselves with the reporting indicators from the beginning in order to include the relevant ones in your monitoring strategy.

- At the final report stage projects will be asked to 'confirm on their honour' that data on all Annex VIII indicators relevant to the action has been duly submitted to the Commission.

Further considerations applicable to both Topics of the Call (III)

- Applications should comply with all relevant **ethical principles** and all applicable international, EU and national law on ethical issues while carrying out the project.

- Applications should pay appropriate attention to the effects of the project on **individual rights and freedoms**, and indicate the measures taken to limit or remedy such effects.

- Applications shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the **Charter of Fundamental Rights** of the European Union.

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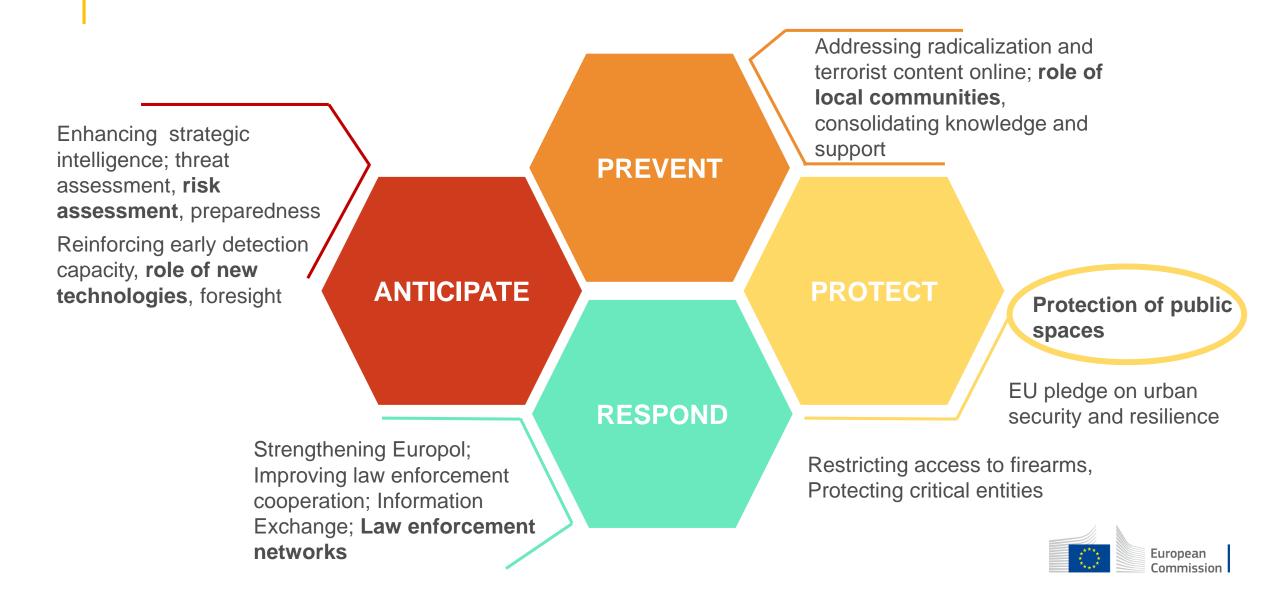
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EU policy framework

- EU Counter-Terrorism Agenda (2020)

- Council Conclusions on the Protection of Public Spaces (2021)

- EU strategy on combating anti-semitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030)

- EU Quick Guide to support the protection of places of worship

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EU Counter-Terrorism Agenda

PREVENT

ANTICIPATE

PROTECT

RESPOND

Enhancing strategic intelligence; threat assessment, **risk assessment**, preparedness

Reinforcing early detection capacity, **role of new technologies**, foresight

Addressing radicalization and terrorist content online; **role of local communities**, consolidating knowledge and support

Protection of public spaces

EU pledge on urban security and resilience

Restricting access to firearms, Protecting critical entities

Strengthening Europol; Improving law enforcement cooperation; Information Exchange; **Law enforcement networks**

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Protection of places of worship

- **Objective**: enhance the protection of places of worship of **all faiths**

- **Scope and activities**: improving cooperation between public authorities and the faith community (communication channels, providing information/a better understanding of security threats

- designing/implementing security awareness raising campaigns targeting PoW (EU-wide), to make citizens more aware of threats, encourage them to report suspicious behaviour and promote an appropriate response to threats

- sharing of knowledge, tools and good practices on protective measures across different MS (among same faith organisations/preferably between and involving different faiths)

- development/implementation of security concepts, measures, programs and communication plans/development and implementation of trainings/workshops

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ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT Call for proposals

Topic 2 - Protection of (other) public spaces, CBRN-E, unmanned aircraft systems, explosives

DG HOME

D2 Unit, Counter-terrorism – Maria-Luiza van de Westelaken

EU Policy Framework

- The 2017 Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks.

- Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 on the marketing and use of explosives precursors

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Protection of public spaces, CBRN, UAS, explosives

- Objective 1: improve PPS, particularly public-private cooperation, development and implementation of good practices and those listed in the Commission Staff Working Document "Good practices to support the protection of public spaces"

- Objective 2: enhance the protection against and detection of CBRN and explosives threats for different types of public spaces and critical infrastructures

- Objective 3: to enhance the protection of Member States' against the threats posed by non-cooperatives UAS

- Objective 4: to enhance the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 on the marketing and use of explosives precursors

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Objective 1

- **Assessment and planning** (e.g. vulnerability assessments; event security plans; train a security person; crisis management plan)

- **Awareness and training** (e.g. public awareness campaigns on reporting of suspicious behaviour; develop and implement an internal security awareness programme for all employees; internal insider threats awareness programme; basic security training programmes for all staff)

- **Physical protection** (e.g. assess security/physical protection when designing; assess the necessary access controls and barriers, whilst avoiding creating new vulnerabilities)

- **Cooperation** (e.g. contact points/clarify roles in public-private cooperation on security; trustful and timely communication and cooperation; coordinate the work on PPS, communication and good practice exchanges)

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Objective 2 – CBRN in public spaces

- **Guidance materials** on better protection against and detection of CBRN and explosives threats, for different types of public spaces

- **Security concepts, measures and programmes** for different types of public spaces

- **Trainings** on better protection against and detection of CBRN and explosives threats, for different types of public spaces

- Public spaces: e.g. sport facilities, shopping malls, cross-border tunnels, schools, restaurants, hotels. Each location has its own specificity

- Both law enforcement and the operators

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Objective 3 – UAS (drones)

- **Development of training modules** for Member States law enforcement/civil agencies in charge of countering/mitigating the threat posed by non-cooperative UAS

- Different functions and responsibility levels (incl. command, acquisition, operations management, training and operator in the field)

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Objective 4 – explosives

- Promoting networking, PPPs, mutual confidence, understanding and learning, identification and dissemination of best practices and innovative approaches, training and exchange programme about the marketing and use of explosives precursors to:

- Improve cooperation (between MS and with Europol, within MS

- Improve awareness:

  - with the chemical sector => implementing the restrictions and reporting obligations of the Regulation

  - in relation to what makes certain transactions of explosives precursors suspicious, in particular in an online setting

Break 10:05 – 10:20

Next up: Legal, administrative and financial aspects

ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT Call for proposals

Legal, administrative and financial aspects

Tamara Muñoz

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DG HOME

Unit E4 – Union Actions and Procurement

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Outline

I. General overview of the PROTECT 2022 Call for proposals

II. Eligibility and admissibility criteria

III. Evaluation process

IV. Guidance for drafting your application

V. Questions and FAQs

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I. General Overview: Timeline

Stages		Date and time or indicative period
a)	Call opening	8 February 2022
b)	Deadline for submission	11 May 2022 – 17:00 (Brussels Time)
c)	Info sessions for potential applicants (webcast)	8th April 2022
d)	Evaluation period	May-September 2022
e)	Information to applicants	September – October 2022
f)	Signature of grant agreement	December 2022 – January 2023

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ISF 2022 PROTECT Call Topics

Proposals submitted under the present call for proposals must address one of the following topics:

1. **ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT-01-PoW: Protection of places of worship**

2. **ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT-02-others: Protection of publics spaces, CBRN-E, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), explosives**

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Budget

The available call budget is EUR **14 500 000**. Specific budget information per topic can be found below:

- ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT-01-PoW: **EUR 9 600 000**

- ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT-02-others: **EUR 4 900 000**

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available and/or to reallocate the amounts between topics.

Admissibility

Applications must be:

- sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 4;

- submitted using the Electronic Submission System of the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal;

- submitted using the standard Submission Form Part A and Part B of the respective call for proposals. **The template for Part B shall not be customised**, i.e. keep all its foreseen sections (even if not relevant for your proposal), and without deleting instructions or changing the font. They must include all the mandatory information and be accompanied (if applicable) by the audit report annexes;

- drafted in one of the EU official languages. English is preferred in order to speed up the evaluation procedure.

Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to the inadmissibility of the application.

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Eligibility

In order for applications to be eligible they must meet the eligibility criteria defined in the call:

- Eligibility of the applicants and co-applicants (section 6 of the call)

- Eligibility regarding the action's duration, transnational component and EU requested contribution (section 6 of the call)

- Eligibility of the activities (section 2 and 6 of the call)

- Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to the ineligibility of the application.

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Eligibility: (Co-)Applicants I – Legal Status

Consortium composition	As Coordinator	As beneficiary
Public entities	YES	YES
Private entities	YES	YES
International Organisations	NO	YES

Ineligible

- Union agencies (except EC Joint Research Centre)
- Natural persons

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Eligibility: (Co-)Applicants II – Country of establishment & transnational component

All applicants and co-applicants must be established in the following countries:

- **EU Member States** (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs)), excluding Denmark.

- There is no limitation in terms of country of establishment for International Organisations.

- Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing association agreements negotiations may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

- Proposals must be submitted by **minimum 2 applicants** (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from **2 different eligible countries.**

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Eligibility: Project duration

- Maximum project duration for <u>both topics</u> = **24 months**

- Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment

<u>Ineligible</u>

- Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period

- Applications for projects whose activities have started before the date of submission

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Eligibility: EU contribution

	ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT-01-PoW	ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT-02-others
Budget (EUR)	9 600 000	4 900 000
Minimum Requested Grant amount (EUR)	500 000	500 000
Maximum Requested Grant amount (EUR)	3 000 000	3 000 000

- Minimum and maximum refer to the **requested EU contribution** and <u>not</u> to the total budget of the action / total eligible costs.

- Ineligible: applications with lower or higher EU requested contributions

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III. Evaluation process

Legal notice

This presentation is for informational purposes only and does not constitute any legal or professional advice. In particular, this information is without prejudice to any future decision of the Evaluation Committee on actual proposals, and the European Commission shall not be liable for any use made thereof.

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Evaluation process

An evaluation committee will assess all applications.

- **Preliminary check**: proposals will first be checked for **formal requirements** (admissibility and eligibility, see sections 5 and 6).
- **Technical evaluation**: proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each topic) against the **operational capacity and award criteria** (see sections 7 and 9) and then ranked according to their scores**.** This is a **two-step** evaluation procedure:

  - Step 1 – Relevance
  - Step 2 – Quality and Impact

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

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Technical Evaluation – Award criteria

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	21	30
Quality	n/a	50
Impact	n/a	20
Overall (pass) scores	**70**	**100**

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Step 1 - Relevance (30 points)

- Clarity and consistency of the objectives and scope of the project against the objectives & expected impact/outcomes

- Relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans

- Previous results in the field

- European/trans-national dimension

Tip: step 1 - Relevance is key → do your best to draft a proposal fully in line with the priorities of the call.

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Step 2 - Quality (50 points)

- Logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed

- Appropriateness of the methodology for implementation (concept and methodology, timetable, monitoring and evaluation)

- Expertise and quality of the consortium and project teams

- Management structures and procedures

- Risks and risk management

- Feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame

- Cost effectiveness and best value for money

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Step 2 - Impact (20 points)

- Expected short-term and long-term impact of results on target groups/general public

- Degree of ambition and innovation

- Appropriate communication strategy, including visibility of EU funding

- Appropriate dissemination strategy for ensuring sustainability and long-term impact

- Sustainability of results after EU funding ends

- Replicability/usability/potential for amplification of the results

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IV. Guidance for drafting your application

Make sure you have the necessary information to prepare your proposal…

… so that we will receive the best possible proposals and fund the best projects for the different topics.

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Where to start

Read through all of the relevant documents on the call webpage and FAQs.

- Have I fully understood the topic?

- Will my proposal fit the topic of the call?

- Is my partnership strong enough?

- Be explicit, proposals are evaluated as they are!

- Take your time, but do not wait until the last minute

- Regularly check & read again the proposal

- Proofread (including budget table)

- Save it often

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Your application

- Submit online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System

1. Register in the Participant Register

2. Submit your application

   - Part A: administrative information about applicant organizations and the summarized budget. Fill it in directly online

   - Part B: technical content of the proposal. Download the word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file

- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file

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Useful resources

- [Call document ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT](#)

- ***Please try to find the answers you need in the Call, and in the following resources*** *(links to documents in the Call)*:

  - Online Manual

  - FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls)

  - Portal FAQ (for general questions).

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Registration and legal status

- Self-assessment of legal status is the basis for the eligibility check of applications.

- Natural persons are ineligible.

- Will be controlled by the European Commission in grant agreement preparation.

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Eligibility of costs

- The grant parameters (maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 3 and art. 5).

- The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant. This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs).

- Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs on the basis of Unit costs (see C(2021) 35 final for more information).

- Equipment costs: as an exception this call allows for eligibility of full equipment costs, but the application must include an appropriate justification and each equipment item needs to be duly identified in the text.

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Co-financing

- The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement → **90%.**

- Ineligible sources of co-financing = Ineligible costs

- In-kind costs are ineligible costs

- Splitting the costs of the action

  - It is up to the applicants to define the estimated budget of an action, including the distribution of costs amongst them. Applicants are free to determine the distribution of the 10% co-financing amongst them and/or other sources.

  - Similarly, it is up to the applicants to define the requested EU contribution for each partner while respecting that EU contribution for applications can go up to a maximum of 90% of the total eligible costs of the action.

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Financial capacity and audit report

- Financial capacity assessment only <u>during grant agreement preparation</u>. The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents uploaded in the Participant Register during grant preparation.

- The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but it will also take into account other aspects: dependency on EU funding, deficit and revenue in previous years.

- The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22)*

  - For more information, *see* [*Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment*](#).

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Submission

- Submit to the right topic: Coherence Part A and Part B

- Submit ahead of the deadline

- Save a copy of your application

- Check the warning messages

- Only very good applications are selected for funding

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V. Questions and FAQs

- Contact points for applicants:

    - For individual questions on the *Portal Submission System*, please contact the **IT Helpdesk**.

    - Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: HOME-ISF@ec.europa.eu .

- Non-IT related questions should clearly indicate to which topics they refer to by adding the Topic ID

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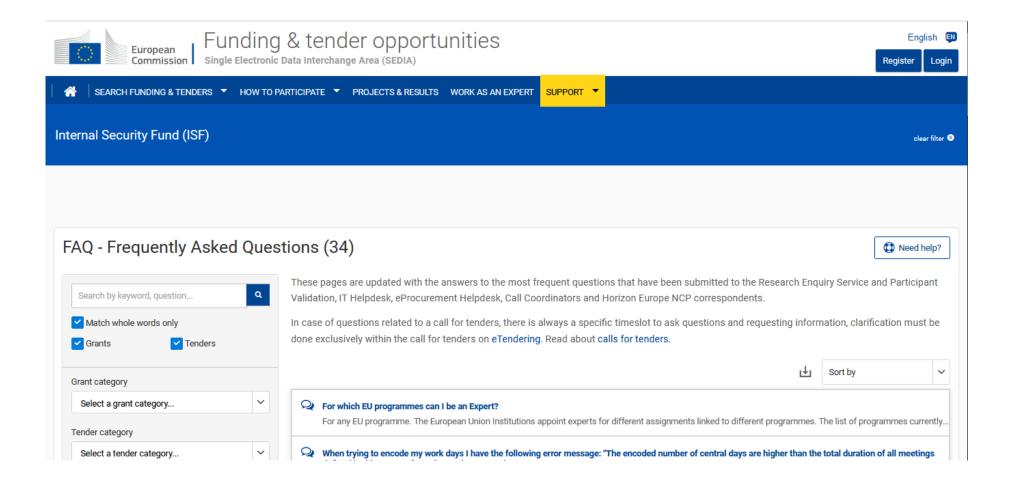
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FAQs

All questions received by the European Commission which:

- Are relevant,

- Cannot be easily answered by consulting the Call text and other relevant documents,

- Do not constitute a pre-proposal check,

will be published as an FAQ on the Funding and Tenders portal to ensure all applicants are be able to access the same information.

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FAQs

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What type of questions will the EC address?

- Questions that aim to get clarification on the topic texts

  - Under ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT-02-others, how many objectives are to be addressed?

- Questions that are related to administrative, legal or financial aspects of the Call

  - Under Call ISF-2022-TF1-AG-PROTECT, is it possible to apply as an "affiliated entity" for a private entity?

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What type of questions the EC will <u>not</u> address?

- Questions on eligibility of applicants or activities or on the outcome of the Call

- Questions on particular applications regarding their relevance, proposed outcomes, suitability of the consortium or any other **element falling under the evaluation criteria** (pre-proposal check), for example:

  - Q: […] Would our proposed consortium be suitable for this Topic?

  - Q: Our NGO has been recently established, would that impact our chances of being awarded the funding?

  - Q: […] Is our proposed idea in scope?

  - Q: […] Would our project be relevant for any of the topics of the ISF Call?

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HOME-ISF@ec.europa.eu

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Thanks for your attention and good luck with your applications!

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