



European Defence Fund (EDF)

Call for proposals

EDF-2022-FPA

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for a **framework partnership** in view of subsequent EU grants in the field of collaborative defence research and development under the **European Defence Fund (EDF)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (EDF Regulation [2021/697](#)¹).

The call is launched in accordance with the Work Programme 2022 Part II² and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS)**.

Framework partnerships (FPAs) are long-term cooperation instruments that serve as umbrella for regular or recurrent grants in the same field or area and under a common action plan (or work programme of activities). They are a prerequisite for being able to apply for these grants, but don't create any legitimate expectations or entitlement to get them. FPA beneficiaries are normally identified on the basis of a standard evaluation and award procedure and then invited to submit their proposals for grants (closed calls; addressed directly to the framework partners).

The call covers the following **topic**:

- **EDF-2022-FPA-MCBRN-MCM: Framework partnership agreement to support an EU defence medical countermeasures alliance**

Each project application under the call must address only this topic.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the Framework Partnership Agreement, Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:
 - background, type of action and funding rate, objectives, scope and types of activities, functional requirements, expected impact and specific topic conditions (sections 1 and 2)
 - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
 - admissibility and eligibility conditions, including mandatory documents (sections 5 and 6)
 - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
 - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
 - award criteria (section 9)

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021).

² Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 3403 final of 25/05/2022 on the financing of the European Defence Fund established by Regulation (EU) No 2021/697 of the European Parliament and the Council and the adoption of the work programme for 2022 - Part II.

- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10) – *not applicable to FPA*
 - how to submit an application (section 11)
- the Online Manual outlines the:
 - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
 - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
 - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Specific Grant Agreement(s) you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant(s) (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

You are also encouraged to visit the [DG DEFIS webpage](#) to consult the list of projects funded previously.

1. Background

The European Defence Fund (EDF) fosters the competitiveness, efficiency and innovation capacity of the European defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB).

It contributes to the EU strategic autonomy and its freedom of action, by supporting collaborative actions and cross-border cooperation between legal entities throughout the Union, in particular SMEs and mid-caps, as well as by strengthening and improving the agility of both defence supply and value chains, widening cross-border cooperation between legal entities and fostering the better exploitation of the industrial potential of innovation, research and technological development, at each stage of the industrial lifecycle of defence products and technologies.

The EDF funds projects which are consistent with the defence capability priorities commonly agreed by EU Member States within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), through:

- collaborative research that could significantly boost the performance of future capabilities, aiming to maximise innovation and introduce new defence products and technologies, including disruptive technologies for defence, and aiming to make the most efficient use of defence research spending in the EU

or

- collaborative development of defence products and technologies, thus contributing to the greater efficiency of defence spending in the EU, achieving greater economies of scale, reducing the risk of unnecessary duplication and thereby fostering the market uptake of European defence products and technologies and reducing the fragmentation of defence products and technologies, ultimately leading to an increase in the standardisation of defence systems and a greater interoperability between Member States' capabilities.

In line with the Work Programme(s) 2022 part II, this call covers a thematic topic for the establishment of an EU framework partnership agreement (FPA) in view of future specific EU grants addressing thematic research and/or development actions to be implemented through actual cost grants.

2. Type of action and funding rate — Objectives — Scope and types of activities — Functional requirements — Expected impact — Specific topic conditions

Type of action and funding rate

The topic under this call for proposals concerns EDF Framework Partnerships (FPA).

FPA do not entail financial support.

Only subsequent Research Actions or Development Actions, to be implemented through actual costs grants, will give rise to EU funding (Specific Grant Agreements – SGAs, see Annex 1).

In such case:

- Research Actions will be reimbursed at a funding rate of 100%.
- Development Actions will be reimbursed at a variable funding rate:

For Development Actions, the IT system (*e.g. budget table in the Submission System, payment calculator in the Grant Management System*) will for technical reasons display a general funding rate of 100% for all automated calculations.

In order to calculate the rates that are due under the EDF Regulation, you will have to calculate the individual funding rates for your project (via the Detailed budget table available in the Submission System, *see section 5*).

These rates will be based on the:

- baseline funding rates (per type of activity)
- and
- bonuses (per type of activity and depending on type of participants, if any).

Types of activities (art 10(3) EDF Regulation)		Baseline funding rate	PESCO bonus	SME bonus		Mid-cap bonus	Maximum funding rate with bonuses
				non- cross- border	cross border		
(a)	Activities that aim to create, underpin and improve knowledge, products and technologies, including disruptive technologies, which can achieve significant effects in the area of defence (generating knowledge)	Cannot be funded	Cannot be funded	Cannot be funded	Cannot be funded	Cannot be funded	Cannot be funded
(b)	Activities that aim to increase interoperability and resilience, including secured production and exchange of data, to master critical defence technologies, to strengthen the security of supply or to enable the effective exploitation of results for defence products and technologies (integrating knowledge)	65%	+ 10%	+ X% (see table below)	+ X% (see table below)	+ 10%	up to 100%

(c)	Studies , such as feasibility studies to explore the feasibility of new or upgraded products, technologies, processes, services and solutions	90%	+ 10%	+ X% (see table below)	+ X% (see table below)	+ 10%	up to 100%
(d)	Design of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology as well as the definition of the technical specifications on which such a design has been developed, including any partial test for risk reduction in an industrial or representative environment	65%	+ 10%	+ X% (see table below)	+ X% (see table below)	+ 10%	up to 100%
(e)	System prototyping ³ of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	20%	+ 10%	+ X% (see table below)	+ X% (see table below)	+ 10%	up to 55%
(f)	Testing of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	45%	+ 10%	+ X% (see table below)	+ X% (see table below)	+ 10%	up to 80%
(g)	Qualification ⁴ of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	70%	+ 10%	+ X% (see table below)	+ X% (see table below)	+ 10%	up to 80%
(h)	Certification ⁵ of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	70%	+ 10%	+ X% (see table below)	+ X% (see table below)	+ 10%	up to 80%
(i)	Development of technologies or assets increasing efficiency across the life cycle of defence products and technologies	65%	+ 10%	+ X% (see table below)	+ X% (see table below)	+ 10%	up to 100%

In order to obtain the bonuses, the applicants must fulfil the following conditions:

Type of bonus	Condition	Bonus (additional number of percentage points to the baseline funding rate)
PESCO bonus	Project developed in the context of a project of the permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) ⁶	+ 10%


³ 'System prototype' means a model of a product or technology that can demonstrate performance in an operational environment.


⁴ 'Qualification' means the entire process of demonstrating that the design of the product, component or technology meets the specified requirements, providing objective evidence by which particular requirements of a design are demonstrated to have been met.

⁵ 'Certification' means the process by which a national authority certifies that the product, component or technology complies with the applicable regulations.

⁶ See Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315 of 11 December 2017 establishing permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) and determining the list of participating Member States (OJ L 331, 14.12.2017, p. 57).

SME⁷ bonus (non-cross border)	Proportion of eligible costs allocated to SMEs (beneficiaries, affiliated entities and subcontractors involved in the action; not associated partners)	+ % of the proportion of eligible costs allocated to non-cross-border SMEs ⁸ (up to maximum 5%)
SME bonus (cross-border)		+ twice the % of the proportion of eligible costs allocated to cross-border SMEs ⁹
Mid-cap bonus	Proportion of eligible costs allocated to mid-caps ¹⁰ (beneficiaries, affiliated entities and subcontractors involved in the action; not associated partners) ≥ 15% (for the activity concerned)	+ 10%

 Please note that only entities which are registered in the Participant Portal (i.e. have a PIC) and which have a positive SME/Mid-cap self-assessment result (for the current and 2 previous years) can be counted for the SME/Mid-cap bonuses. Please make sure that all your project participants fulfil these requirements ([Funding & Tenders Portal account](#) > My Organisations > Actions > Modify Organisation > SME tab > Start SME self-assessment (> Mid-cap self-declaration); for more information, see [IT How To](#)).

 Please also note that for WP 1 — Project management and coordination, you must always use the funding rate for the type of activity (c) Studies.

The funding rates that will cap the maximum amounts that may be requested for each applicant and reporting period will then be fixed in Annex 2e of the Grant Agreement.

EDF-2022-FPA-MCBRN-MCM: Framework partnership agreement to support EU defence medical countermeasures Alliance

Objectives

The framework partnership will support individual troop readiness and total force health protection by developing technologies and products to rapidly identify and respond to biological threats (including natural and genetically modified organism), chemical hazards and attacks, toxins as well as countermeasures regarding radio-nuclear and nuclear threats. Funded actions also focus on the research and development of vaccines and drugs and other antibiological substances (e.g., bacteriophages) against biological agents that may affect a sizable number of the military and/or be used on the battlefield. A subset of the funded actions specifically supports solutions to be used by personnel with minimal medical training, deployable laboratory capabilities even in the low-resource environments typical of many military operations.

⁷ 'SMEs' means small and medium-sized enterprises as defined in the Annex to EU Recommendation [2003/361/EC](#).

⁸ 'Non-cross-border SMEs' are SMEs established in the Member States or EDF associated countries in which the beneficiaries that are not SMEs are established.

⁹ 'Cross-border SMEs' are SMEs established in Member States or EDF associated countries other than those in which the beneficiaries that are not SMEs are established.

¹⁰ 'Middle-capitalisation company (mid-cap)' means an enterprise that is not an SME and that has up to 3 000 employees, where the staff headcount is calculated in accordance with Articles 3 to 6 of the Annex to EU Recommendation [2003/361/EC](#).

The objective of proposals under this call is to update and/or develop medical countermeasures (MCMs) for the armed forces of EU and – wherever applicable - related civil/health protection to respond to the continuously changing and novel health threats posed by CBRN. It thus aims at developing shared capabilities for EU armed forces against CBRN crises, and to treat exposure, pathologies or injuries of significant impact.

This framework partnership will contribute to responding more efficiently to conflicts, crises, or isolated events involving CBRN situations.

Scope and types of activities

Scope

To master the evolving threats, the Commission intends to establish a stable and structured partnership with legal entities grouped in a consortium which commit themselves to:

- Create a long-term open, supportive and sustainable cooperation mechanism in Europe amplifying, connecting and strengthening EU (defence) medical research and development capabilities on selected medical threats; and,
- Contribute to the accessibility and availability of medical countermeasures and strengthen their disposability.

Framework partners should focus on innovation, research and development of medical countermeasures against CBRN threats as well as their integration into EU and Member States and Norway health sector, civil protection mechanism and military forces.

Partners may also provide for analysis of the relevance and feasibility of novel MCMs and related technology, further and/or continuous mapping of CBRN MCM capacities across EU, as well as options for ensuring EU's access and availability of MCMs.

MCMs may include clinical testing capabilities or methods, any medicines or medical devices that are aimed at combating CBRN threats. This extends both to countermeasures that prevent or treat the threat. For MCMs to be updated, available and able to respond, this entails a large scope covering innovation, research, development and analysis.

Types of activities that can be funded

This partnership will be set up through an FPA, which will enable the **completion of a multiannual action plan** within the context of the agreement.

Applicants are invited to:

- propose a multiannual action plan providing clear descriptions of the main activities and implementation methodology;
- describe the contribution and added value of the partnership to the EU policy in the area of this call;
- describe the way in which they use monitoring and/or external evaluations in order to assess their overall performance and the relevance and impact of their outputs.

The consortia responding to the call may include military medical commands, research institutes, universities, RTOs, industry, SMEs as well as other organisations that can play a role in the realisation of defence medical countermeasures. The FPA

will specify the objectives, the nature of the actions planned, and the procedure for awarding specific grants.

The FPA is expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Establish a technology innovation roadmap (multiannual action plan) for linking early-stage capabilities to industry developments.
- Focus on research, innovation and development of defence medical countermeasures against CBRN threats as well as their integration into Member States and Norway military forces, EU health sector and civil protection mechanisms.
- Establish a well-connected network at European level in order to facilitate interoperability in detecting and validating CBRN threats and enlarge capabilities by a consequent cooperation and subsequent division of labour and capacities.
- Stimulate cooperation between European military and civilian research institutes and industry to initiate a core of European research base on military health issues.

Specific grants implemented under the FPA must be in line with the proposed **Action Plan** and may cover one or more of the activities as referred in article 10(3) of the EDF Regulation.

Types of activities (art 10(3) EDF Regulation)		Eligible for a Research Action?	Eligible for a Development Action?
(a)	Activities that aim to create, underpin and improve knowledge, products and technologies, including disruptive technologies, which can achieve significant effects in the area of defence (generating knowledge)	Yes	No
(b)	Activities that aim to increase interoperability and resilience, including secured production and exchange of data, to master critical defence technologies, to strengthen the security of supply or to enable the effective exploitation of results for defence products and technologies (integrating knowledge)	Yes	Yes
(c)	Studies , such as feasibility studies to explore the feasibility of new or upgraded products, technologies, processes, services and solutions	Yes	Yes
(d)	Design of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology as well as the definition of the technical specifications on which such a design has been developed, including any partial test for risk reduction in an industrial or representative environment	Yes	Yes
(e)	System prototyping ¹¹ of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	No	Yes
(f)	Testing of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	No	Yes

¹¹ 'System prototype' means a model of a product or technology that can demonstrate performance in an operational environment.

(g)	Qualification ¹² of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	No	Yes
(h)	Certification ¹³ of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	No	Yes
(i)	Development of technologies or assets increasing efficiency across the life cycle of defence products and technologies	No	Yes

For SGAs related to innovation, research and development of MCM products (Drugs and Biologics) the following adapted activities may be covered:

- **Generating knowledge:** choice of pharmacological target, antigen, or physiological process; target or antibody validation; elucidation of mechanism of action.
- **Integrating knowledge:** development of industrial production under GMP conditions; demonstration of the stability of MCMs (GMP) in bulk and distributed form (ICH Stability testing of new drug substances and drug products).
- **Studies:** In vitro assays, in aerosol particles, in vivo proof of concept studies.
- **Design:** Preclinical trials (DRS, safety, efficacy) on relevant animal models, quality control tests, validation of industrial production process under GMP conditions. Pivotal efficacy studies on animal models as close as possible to humans (authorization under exceptional circumstances).
- **Testing:** phase I clinical trial with most advanced MCM candidates.
- **Qualification:** finalization of a dossier for marketing authorization.
- **Certification:** New drug application (NDA) delivered by the regulatory authority (EMA) or early access program.

Innovative disruptive technologies, like MCMs that limit the development of resistance (e.g., broad-spectrum or highly specific and individualized MCMs), and platforms for local production of MCMs on-demand, may also be covered.

Functional requirements

Proposals for the FPA must provide for an **Action Plan** that should cover, but should not limit to, the following areas:

(1) Broad scientific approaches to address general needs

- Research on the properties of and protection from new and emerging CBRN threats
- Development of new technologies for the rapid manufacturing, delivery and distribution of large size medical countermeasures.

(2) Targeted R&D activities that address specific needs

¹² 'Qualification' means the entire process of demonstrating that the design of the product, component or technology meets the specified requirements, providing objective evidence by which particular requirements of a design are demonstrated to have been met.

¹³ 'Certification' means the process by which a national authority certifies that the product, component or technology complies with the applicable regulations.

- Development of new generation auto-injectors for antidotes administration.
- Development of technologies, solutions and deployable platforms that integrate, automate, and miniaturize the collection, processing, and analysis of biological and chemical samples.
- Development of novel technologies or measures to treat infections and wounds contaminated by CBR-agents (e.g., sorbent separation mechanism).
- Development on novel Medical Countermeasures against CBRN threats.

(3) High-risk activities with potential pivotal outcomes

- Innovative disruptive methods: Applications or technologies that enables EU to develop novel capabilities such as on demand production of civilian and military-critical materiel and medical countermeasures.
- Development of a mobile, scalable and adaptable European platform for rapid development of medical countermeasures capable of producing relevant numbers of doses against any known or previously unknown CBRN threat within 60 days of identification.
- Development of novel methods to impart near-immediate immunity to an individual using antibodies or generating specific immunity on routes of entry for infection, such as mouth and nose for airborne agents.
- Generation of technologies and scientific knowledge of human physiological responses caused by exposure to any biological or chemical agent.
- Development of new technologies for the simulation of human body response to medical countermeasures against emerging infectious diseases and chemical or biological attacks.

Proposals for FPAs should expand and strengthen the supply chain, aiming for the development of key enabling technologies while improving notions of control of medical countermeasures.

Proposals for FPAs should also develop an IP strategy to protect innovations in the field of medical countermeasures and to provide information about the IPRs that are open to licensing.

Proposals for FPAs should also cover: (i) the collaboration with other initiatives or programmes at regional, national, EU or NATO level and (ii) any additional support they may receive in their activities from relevant national, or regional programmes and initiatives. They should also contribute to spreading excellence across Europe.

Expected impact

The Commission expects the partnership to design and implement **relevant, quality and impactful activities that fit the objectives and priorities** defined in the call. The action plan should clearly demonstrate the organisation's capacity to generate **concrete impacts**.

Applicants are invited to:

- provide clear descriptions of the main activities and implementation methodology;
- describe the contribution and added value of the partnership to the EU policy in the area of this call;

- describe the way in which they use monitoring and external evaluations in order to assess their overall performance and the relevance and impact of their outputs.

In terms of results, the Commission expects the framework partnership to:

- provide substantial improvements to the CBRN defence domain for Member States and Norway armed forces with consistent CBRN medical protections against a large panel of threats currently not covered by drugs produced within EU;
- facilitate the development of CBRN defence capabilities that each Member State and associated country, individual government or industry cannot face alone (i.e., a technological platform for the production of medical countermeasures);
- stimulate cooperation between European military and civilian research institutes and industry to initiate a core of European research base on military health issues,
- carry out and support coherent projects over the long term and prepare their integration in a global solution (system of systems),
- strengthen European sovereignty and contribute to the EU strategic autonomy,
- develop EU autonomous industrial segments.

Even if the main objective of the project is to contribute to the armed forces, its results can also be of interest for the civilian sector.

Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (*see section 6*)

3. Available budget

FPA's do not entail financial support. The budgetary amount envisioned for future specific grants under this framework partnership is EUR 100 000 000.

We reserve the right not to award any SGA under the FPA, depending on the available budget, the existence of co-financing for development activities, or the quality of the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

Depending on the number and quality of proposals, we expect to sign up to 1 framework partnership.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
FPA	
Call opening:	21 June 2022
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>24 November 2022 – 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	November 2022 - June 2023

Information on evaluation results:	June/July 2023
FPA signature:	July-December 2023
First SGA calls	
Invitations to submit proposals:	July-December 2023
Opening for submission:	July-December 2023
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>Q1 2024</u>
Evaluation:	Q2 2024
Information on evaluation results:	July 2024
GA signature:	July-December 2024

5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:


- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- mandatory annexes and supporting documents (*templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded together with Application Form Part B*):
 - participant information (including previous projects, if any)
 - list of infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources
 - ethics issues table
 - ownership control declarations

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the framework partnership, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable**.

Proposals (Part B) are limited to maximum **100 pages**, counting the multi-annual action plan description. Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility


Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries :
 - listed EEA countries ('EDF associated countries', see [list of participating countries](#))
- have their executive management structure established in eligible countries
- must not be subject to control by a non-associated third country or non-associated third-country entity (unless they can provide guarantees – see Annex 2 - approved by the Member State or EDF associated country where they are established)


Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc (*see section 13*).

 Please note that, in EDF, subcontractors involved in the action¹⁴ and associated partners must also comply with the above-listed conditions concerning establishment and control.

Associated partners which are not established in one of the eligible countries (or which are subject to control by a non-associated third country or non-associated third-country entity) may however participate exceptionally if certain conditions are fulfilled (*not contravene EU and MS security and defence interests; consistent with EDF objectives; results not subject to control or restriction by non-associated third countries or non-associated third-country entities; no unauthorised access to classified information; no potential negative effects over security of supply of inputs which are critical for the project*), subject to agreement by the granting authority and without any funding under the grant.

¹⁴ 'Subcontractors involved in the action' means subcontractors with a direct contractual relationship to a beneficiary or affiliated entity, other subcontractors to which at least 10 % of the total eligible costs of the action are allocated, and subcontractors which may need access to classified information in order to carry out the project.


 For the framework partnership, the eligibility of entities will be checked generally at FPA-level for all applicants and then again in case of amendment of the FPA (e.g., change of a partner, change of ownership/status requiring a new assessment).

Specific cases

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are not eligible, unless they are international organisations whose members are only Member States or EDF associated countries and whose executive management structure is in a Member State or EDF associated country.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons¹⁵.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'¹⁶.  Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Subcontractors involved in the action — Subcontractors with a direct contractual relationship to a recipient (*i.e. beneficiary or affiliated entity*), other subcontractors to which at least 10 % of the total eligible costs of the action is allocated, and subcontractors which may need access to classified information in order to carry out the action.

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (*e.g. 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)*¹⁷ and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)¹⁸). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

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

Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by minimum 3 independent applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 3 different eligible countries.

Eligible actions and activities

Eligible actions and activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

¹⁵ See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

¹⁶ For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

¹⁷ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

¹⁸ Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

The following actions and activities are not considered as eligible for funding under this call:

- projects that do not implement the objectives set out in Article 3 of the EDF Regulation
- projects that do not concern new defence products or technologies or the upgrade of existing defence products or technologies
- projects that do not relate to at least one of the types of activities set out in Article 10(3) of the EDF Regulation
- projects that do not cover the mandatory types of activities set out in section 2
- projects that concern products and technologies whose use, development or production is prohibited by international law
- projects that concern the development of lethal autonomous weapons without the possibility for meaningful human control over selection and engagement decisions when carrying out strikes against humans (with the exception of the development of early warning systems and countermeasures for defensive purposes).
- projects where background or results:
 - would be subject to control or restriction by a non-associated third country or non-associated third-country entity, directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediate legal entities, including in terms of technology transfer
 - and, for pre-existing information (background), this would impact the results


Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

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

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (*see above*).

 Please note that moreover, in EDF, only infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources which are located or held in an eligible country may be used. Other assets, infrastructure, facilities or resources may be used only exceptionally if certain conditions are fulfilled (*no competitive substitutes are readily available; not contravene EU and MS security and defence interests; consistent with EDF objectives; results not subject to control or restriction by non-associated third countries or non-associated third-country entities*), subject to agreement by the granting authority and without any funding under the grant.

Duration

The framework partnership agreement will have a duration of **four years**. Applicants must **provide a high-level 4-year multiannual action plan and budget** for the

period 2023-2026. The duration of activities proposed under the multiannual action plan may exceed the duration of the FPA but corresponding SGAs must be signed before the end of the FPA.

Project budget

Specific grants' budgets are expected to range indicatively between EUR 10 000 000 and EUR 40 000 000.

Ethics

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards (including highest standards of research integrity) and
- applicable EU, international and national law.

Proposals under this call will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific ethics rules (which become part of the Grant Agreement in the form of ethics deliverables, *e.g. ethics committee opinions/notifications/authorisations required under national or EU law*).

For framework partnerships, both the framework partnership applications and the grant applications may have to undergo an ethics review, if needed.

Security

Projects involving classified information must undergo security scrutiny to authorise *funding* and may be made subject to specific security rules (detailed in a security aspects letter (SAL) which is annexed to the Grant Agreement).

Projects where the Member States of the participating beneficiaries and affiliated entities decide to establish a specific security framework under Article 27(4) of the EDF Regulation, will be subject to this specific security framework and classified foreground information (results) generated by the project will be under the originatorship of these Member States.

If no such specific security framework is set up by the signature of the grant agreement, the security rules will be governed by Commission Decision [2015/444](#)¹⁹ and its implementing rules²⁰.

These rules provide for instance that:

- projects involving information classified TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET (or equivalent) can NOT be funded
- classified information must be marked in accordance with the applicable security instructions in the SAL
- information with classification levels CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above (and RESTREINT UE/ EU RESTRICTED, if required by national rules) may be:
 - created or accessed only on premises with facility security clearing

¹⁹ See Commission Decision 2015/544/EU, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

²⁰ See Article 27(4) EDF Regulation.

- (FSC) from the competent national security authority (NSA), in accordance with the national rules
- handled only in a secured area accredited by the competent NSA
- accessed and handled only by persons with valid personnel security clearance (PSC) and a need-to-know
- at the end of the grant, the classified information must either be returned or continue to be protected in accordance with the applicable rules
- action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only with prior written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission)
- disclosure of classified information to third parties is subject to prior written approval from the granting authority.

Please note that facility security clearing may have to be provided before grant signature. The granting authority will assess the need for clearing in each case and will establish their delivery date during grant preparation. Please note that in no circumstances can we sign any grant agreement until at least one of the beneficiaries in a consortium has facility security clearing.

Further security recommendations may be added to the Grant Agreement in the form of security deliverables (*e.g. create security advisory group, limit level of detail, use fake scenario, exclude use of classified information, etc*).

Beneficiaries must ensure that their projects are not subject to third-country/international organisation security requirements that could affect implementation or put into question the award of the grant (*e.g. technology restrictions, national security classification, etc*). The granting authority must be notified immediately of any potential security issues.



More information on security aspects can be found in Annex 3.

For framework partnerships, both the framework partnership applications and the grant applications may have to undergo a security scrutiny.

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations

- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
 - an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
 - prefinancing paid in instalments
 - (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)
- or
- propose no prefinancing
 - request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

For framework partnerships, the financial capacity check will be done only later on at SGA-level (since there is no budget at FPA level).



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

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the Implementation' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project.
- description of the consortium participants (including previous projects, if any)

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

For framework partnerships, the operational capacity check will be done generally at FPA-level and then again for each grant application in the grants calls.

Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate²¹:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct²² (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that²³:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

For framework partnerships, exclusion will be checked before FPA signature and then again before signature of each grant.

²¹ See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

²² Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

²³ See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).


An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each budget envelope; *see section 3*) against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) Proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Excellence and potential of disruption'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Innovation and technological development'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Competitiveness. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Creation of new cross-border cooperation'
- 2) If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on the number of Member States or EDF associated countries, in which applicants involved in the proposal are established

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.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

Framework partnership preparation and specific grant agreement preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the framework partnership.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (*see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)*). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

- **Excellence and potential of disruption (5 points)**
 - Excellence of the overall concept and soundness of the proposed approach for the solution, including main ideas, technologies and methodology
 - Compliance of the proposal with the objectives, scope and targeted activities), functional requirements and expected impact of the topic as set out in section 2
 - Extent to which the objective and expected outcome of the proposed project differs from (and represents an advantage at strategic, technological or defence operational level over) existing defence products or technologies, or has a potential of disruption in the defence domain
- **Innovation and technological development (5 points)**
 - Extent to which the proposal demonstrates innovation potential and contains ground-breaking or novel concepts and approaches (*e.g. new products, services or business and organizational models*), new promising technological improvements, or the application of technologies or concepts previously not applied in the defence sector
 - Integration of existing knowledge and previous or ongoing R&D activities in the defence and/or civil sectors, while avoiding unnecessary duplication
 - Extent to which the innovations or technologies developed under the proposal could spin-off to other defence applications and products
- **Competitiveness (5 points)**
 - Foreseen competitive advantage of the product/technology/solution vis-a-vis existing or planned products/technologies/solutions across the EU and beyond, including consideration given to the balance between performance and cost-efficiency of the solution
 - Potential to accelerate the growth of companies throughout the EU, based on an analysis of the EU internal market and the global market place, indicating, to the extent possible, the size and the growth potential of the market it addresses, as well as expected volumes of sales both within and outside of the EU.
 - Strength of the IP strategy (*e.g. patents*) associated with the solution to support the competitiveness and growth of the applicant companies
- **EDTIB autonomy (5 points)**
 - Extent to which the proposed project will contribute to the autonomy of the European defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB) by increasing the EU's industrial and technological non-dependency from third countries
 - Beneficial impact that the proposed activities will have on the strength of the European security of supply, including the creation of a new supply chain

- Extent to which the project outcome will contribute to the defence capability priorities agreed by Member States within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), and in particular in the context of the [Capability Development Plan](#) (EDA version releasable to the industry); where appropriate, extent to which the proposal addresses regional or an international priorities which serve the security and defence interests of the EU as determined under the CFSP and do not exclude the possibility of participation of Member States or EDF associated countries
- **Creation of new cross-border cooperation (5 points)**
 - Extent to which the proposed project will create new cross-border cooperation between legal entities established in Member States or EDF associated countries, in particular SMEs and mid-caps, especially compared to former activities in the technological area of the call and taking into account the specificity of the market
 - Planned future cross-border cooperation between legal entities established in Member States or EDF associated countries and cooperation opportunities created by the proposed activities
 - Extent to which SMEs and mid-caps which cooperate cross-border participate substantially, and industrial or technological added value brought by them
 - Progressive increase (from a 10% baseline) of tasks to be subcontracted, during the multi-annual action plan, to eligible cross border SME/Midcaps or to eligible entities which are not dependant from the consortium members and their affiliated entities.
- **Implementation (5 points)**
 - Effectiveness and practicality of the structure of the work plan (work breakdown structure), including timing and inter-relation of the different work packages and their components (illustrated by a Gantt chart, Pert chart or similar)
 - Usefulness and comprehensiveness of the milestones and deliverables of the project; coherence and clarity of the criteria for reaching the milestones, which should be measurable, realistic and achievable within the proposed duration
 - Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including decision-making mechanisms, to the complexity and scale of the project; quality of the risk management, including identification and assessment of the project specific critical risks, which could compromise the achievement of the stated project's objectives and detail of proposed risk treatments (*e.g. mitigation measures*)
 - Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources between consortium members, ensuring that all participants have a valid and complementary role; allocation of the work share that ensures a high level of effectiveness and efficiency for carrying out the project

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score	Weighting
Excellence and potential of disruption	n/a	5	2
Innovation and technological development	n/a	5	2
Competitiveness	n/a	5	1
EDTIB autonomy	n/a	5	1
Creation of new cross-border cooperation	n/a	5	2
Implementation	n/a	5	1
Overall weighted (pass) scores	30	45	N/A

Maximum points: 45 points.

There is no minimum pass score for individual criteria.

Overall threshold: 30 points.

Proposals that pass the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

Not applicable for Framework Partnership Agreements.

11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EULogin account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the proposal


Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 2 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online

- Part B and Annexes through a password-protected single zip archive:
 - Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and add to the zip archive as a PDF
 - Annexes (*see section 5*). Download templates and add to zip archive as PDFs

The zip archive must be submitted password-protected (using AES-256 encryption method), with a size of less than 100 MB. The password (and any other passwords used in the documents) must be communicated before the deadline for submission to the following email address: DEFIS-EDF-PROPOSALS-PWD@ec.europa.eu (together with the proposal ID and the name of the zip archive).

 If your proposal includes **classified information**, please contact us at DEFIS-EDF-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu — well in time before the deadline, in order to arrange the delivery of the classified documents. Please be aware that such documents **MUST NOT** under any circumstances be submitted online through the Funding & Tenders Portal.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

Contact

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: DEFIS-EDF-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu.

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).

- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The draft participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.

If your project applies for the SME/Mid-cap bonuses, registration (draft PIC and SME self-assessment wizard) is also mandatory for all participants claiming SME/Mid-cap status (beneficiaries, affiliated entities and subcontractors involved in the action; *see section 2*).

Moreover, registration (draft PIC) is required for entities that must submit an ownership control assessment declaration (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors involved in the action and associated partners).

- **Consortium roles** — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries or affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs per beneficiary/affiliated entity must be justified in the application and may be accepted by the granting authority if the topic is not subject to a fixed subcontracting limit (*see section 10*).

For EU framework partnerships, the consortium must be formed at FPA level. Only entities which are part of the FPA can become beneficiaries in the grants awarded under the framework partnership.

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.

- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.
- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).
Organisations may participate in several proposals.
BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, it must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see section 12).
- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).

Annex 1**EDF types of action**

EDF uses the following actions to implement grants:

Research Actions

Description: Research Actions (RA) target activities consisting primarily of research activities, in particular applied research and where necessary fundamental research, with the aim of acquiring new knowledge and with an exclusive focus on defence applications.

Funding rate: 100%

Payment model: Prefinancing — (x) additional prefinancing payment(s) — (x) interim payment(s) — final payment

Development Actions

Description: Development Actions (DA) target activities consisting of defence-oriented activities primarily in the development phase, covering new defence products or technologies or the upgrading of existing ones, excluding the production or use of weapon.

Funding rate: variable per activity (rates depend on activity and bonuses for SME and mid-cap participation and PESCO)

Payment model: Prefinancing — (x) additional prefinancing payment(s) — (x) interim payment(s) — final payment

PCP Grants for Procurement

Description: PCP Grants for Procurement (PCP) target activities that aim to help a transnational buyers' group to strengthen the public procurement of research, development, validation and, possibly, the first deployment of new solutions that can significantly improve quality and efficiency in areas of public interest, while opening market opportunities for industry and researchers active in Europe. Eligible activities include the preparation, management and follow-up, under the coordination of a lead procurer, of one joint PCP and additional activities to embed the PCP into a wider set of demand-side activities.

Funding rate: variable (to be defined in the work programme)

Payment model: Prefinancing — (x) additional prefinancing payment(s) — (x) interim payment(s) — payment of the balance

Lump Sum Grants for Research Actions

Description: Lump Sum Grants (LS-RA) reimburse a general lump sum for the entire project and the consortium as a whole. The lump sum is fixed ex-ante (at the latest at grant signature) on the basis of a methodology defined by the granting authority (either on the basis of a detailed project budget or other pre-defined parameters). The lump sum will cover all the beneficiaries' direct and indirect costs for the project. The beneficiaries do not need to report actual costs, they just need to claim the lump sum once the work is done. If the action is not properly implemented, only part of the lump sum will be paid.

Lump Sum Grants for Research Actions cover the same type of activities as Research Actions and follow — where relevant — similar rules (*e.g. for funding rates, etc.*).

Funding rate: 100%

Payment model: Prefinancing — (x) additional prefinancing payment(s) — (x) interim payment(s) — final payment

Lump Sum Grants for Development Actions

Description: Lump Sum Grants (LS-DA) reimburse a general lump sum for the entire project and the consortium as a whole. The lump sum is fixed ex-ante (at the latest at grant signature) on the basis of a methodology defined by the granting authority (either on the basis of a detailed project budget or other pre-defined parameters). The lump sum will cover all the beneficiaries' direct and indirect costs for the project. The beneficiaries do not need to report actual costs, they just need to claim the lump sum once the work is done. If the action is not properly implemented, only part of the lump sum will be paid.

Lump Sum Grants for Development Actions cover the same type of activities as Development Actions and follow — where relevant — similar rules (*e.g. for funding rates, etc*).

Funding rate: variable per activity (rates depend on activity and bonuses for SME and mid-cap participation and PESCO)

Payment model: Prefinancing — (x) additional prefinancing payment(s) — (x) interim payment(s) — final payment

Framework Partnerships (FPAs) and Specific Grants (SGAs)

FPAs

Description: FPAs establish a long-term cooperation mechanism between the granting authority and the beneficiaries of grants. The FPA specifies the common objectives (action plan) and the procedure for awarding specific grants. The specific grants are awarded via identified beneficiary actions (with or without competition).

Funding rate: no funding for FPA

SGAs

Description: The SGAs are linked to an FPA and implement the action plan (or part of it). They are awarded via an invitation to submit a proposal (identified beneficiary action). The consortium composition should in principle match (meaning that only entities that are part of the FPA can participate in an SGA), but otherwise the implementation is rather flexible. FPAs and SGAs can have different coordinators; other partners of the FPA are free to participate in an SGA or not. There is no limit to the amount of SGAs signed under one FPA.

Funding rate: depending on the type: 100% or variable per activity

Payment model: Prefinancing — (x) additional prefinancing payment(s) — (x) interim payment(s) — final payment

Annex 2**Guarantees pursuant to Article 9(4) of the EDF Regulation**

All calls under the EDF Programme are subject to ownership control restrictions, meaning that they exclude the participation of legal entities which are established in the EU territory or in an EDF associated country, but are controlled by a non-associated third country or non-associated third country legal entity.

Thus, for the purposes of participating in EDF actions, beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners and subcontractors involved in the action must not be subject to control by a non-associated third country or non-associated third-country entity and undergo an ownership control assessment procedure before grant signature.

Entities that do not comply with this requirement may however exceptionally nevertheless participate, if they can provide guarantees approved by the Member State/EDF associated country in which they are established. Such guarantees must be provided at the latest by grant signature.


The guarantees must provide assurance to the granting authority that the participation of the entity will not contravene the security and defence interests of the EU and its Member States as established in the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) pursuant to Title V of the TEU, or the objectives set out in Article 3 of the EDF Regulation. They must also comply with the provisions on ownership and intellectual property rights (Articles 20 and 23 of the EDF Regulation).

They must in particular substantiate that, for the purposes of the action, measures are in place to ensure that:

- **control** over the legal entity is not exercised in a manner that would restrain or restrict its ability to carry out the action and to deliver results, that would impose restrictions concerning its infrastructure, facilities, assets, resources, intellectual property or knowhow needed for the purposes of the action, or that would undermine its capabilities and standards necessary to carry out the action
- **access** by a non-associated third country or non-associated third-country entity to sensitive information relating to the action is prevented and the employees or other persons involved in the action have national security clearance issued by a Member State or an EDF associated country, where appropriate
- **ownership** of the intellectual property arising from, and the results of, the action remain within the beneficiary or affiliated entity during and after completion of the action, are not subject to control or restriction by a non-associated third country or non-associated third-country entity, and are neither exported outside the EU/EDF associated countries nor accessible from outside the EU/EDF associated countries without the approval of the Member State/EDF associated country in which the legal entity is established and in accordance with the objectives set out in Article 3 of the EDF Regulation.

The guarantees may refer to the fact that the legal entity's executive management structure is established in the EU/EDF associated country or, if considered appropriate, to specific governmental rights in the control over the legal entity.

If considered appropriate by the Member State/EDF associated country, additional guarantees may be provided.

 For more information, see also [Guidance on participation in DEP, HE, EDF and CEF-DIG restricted calls.](#)

Annex 3**Security aspects****Introduction**

Pursuant to Article 27(4) of the EDF Regulation, in case the implementation of the grant involves the handling of classified information, Member States on whose territory the beneficiaries and affiliated entities are established must decide on the originatorship of the classified foreground information (results) generated in the performance of the project. For that purpose, those Member States may decide on a specific security framework for the protection and handling of classified information relating to the project and must inform the granting authority. Such a security framework must be without prejudice to the possibility for the granting authority to have access to necessary information for the implementation of the action.

If no such specific security framework is set up by those Member States, the security framework will be put in place by the granting authority in accordance with Decision 2015/444

In either case, the security framework will be put in place at the latest by the signature of the Grant Agreement.

The applicable security framework will be detailed in the security aspect letter (SAL) which will be annexed to the Grant Agreement.

When you implement a classified grant, please bear in mind the following key rules.

Access to classified information

The creation, handling or access to information classified CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET (or RESTRICTED where required by national rules) on the premises of a participant is only possible if a valid Facility Security Clearance (FSC) at the appropriate level exists for the premises. This FSC must be granted by the National Security Authority (NSA/DSA) of the participant concerned.

The participant must hold a duly confirmed FSC at the appropriate level. Until a secured area is in place and accredited by the national NSA, the handling of classified information above RESTRICTED level on their premises is not allowed.

Access to and handling of classified information for the purposes of the project must be limited to individuals with a need-to-know and which are in possession of a valid personnel security clearance.

At the end of the Grant Agreement when EUCI is no longer required for the performance of the grant, the participant must return any EUCI they hold to the contracting authority immediately. If authorised to retain EUCI after the end of the grant, the EUCI must continue to be protected in accordance with Decision 2015/444.

Marking of classified information

Classified information generated for the performance of the action must be marked in accordance with the applicable security framework, as described in the SAL.

Grants must not involve information classified 'TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET' or any equivalent classification.

Other provisions

Where a participant has awarded a classified subcontract, the security provisions of the grant agreement must apply *mutatis mutandis* to the subcontractor(s) and their personnel. In such case, it is the responsibility of the participant to ensure that all subcontractors apply these principles to their own subcontracting arrangements.

All security breaches related to classified information will be investigated by the competent security authority and may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

Table of equivalent security classification markings

	Secret	Confidential	Restricted
EU	SECRET UE/EU SECRET	CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL	RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED
Austria	GEHEIM	VERTRAULICH	EINGESCHRÄNKT
Belgium	SECRET (Loi du 11 Dec 1998) or GEHEIM (Wet van 11 Dec 1998)	CONFIDENTIEL (Loi du 11 Dec 1998) or VERTROUWELIJK (Wet van 11 Dec 1998)	(Note 1, see below)
Bulgaria	СЕКРЕТНО	ПОВЕРЛИВО	ЗА СЛУЖЕБНО ПОЛЗВАНЕ
Croatia	TAJNO	POVJERLJIVO	OGRANIČENO
Cyprus	ΑΠΟΡΡΗΤΟ ABR:(ΑΠ)	ΕΜΠΙΣΤΕΥΤΙΚΟ ABR:(ΕΜ)	ΠΕΡΙΟΡΙΣΜΕΝΗΣ ΧΡΗΣΗΣ ABR:(ΠΧ)
Czech Republic	TAJNÉ	DŮVĚRNÉ	VYHRAZENÉ
Denmark	HEMMELIGT	FORTROLIGT	TIL TJENESTEBRUG
Estonia	SALAJANE	KONFIDENTSIAALNE	PIIRATUD
Finland	SALAINEN or HEMLIG	LUOTTAMUKSELLINEN or KONFIDENTIELL	KÄYTTÖ RAJOITETTU or BEGRÄNSAD TILLGÅNG

France	SECRET SECRET DÉFENSE <i>(Note 2, see below)</i>	CONFIDENTIEL DÉFENSE <i>(Notes 2 and 3, see below)</i>	<i>(Note 4, see below)</i>
Germany <i>(Note 5, see below)</i>	GEHEIM	VS - VERTRAULICH	VS - NUR FÜR DEN DIENSTGEBRAUCH
Greece	ΑΠΟΡΡΗΤΟ ABR:(ΑΠ)	ΕΜΠΙΣΤΕΥΤΙΚΟ ABR:(ΕΜ)	ΠΕΡΙΟΡΙΣΜΕΝΗΣ ΧΡΗΣΗΣ ABR:(ΠΧ)
Hungary	TITKOS!	BIZALMAS!	KORLÁTOZOTT TERJESZTÉSÚ!
Ireland	SECRET	CONFIDENTIAL	RESTRICTED
Italy	SEGRETO	RISERVATISSIMO	RISERVATO
Latvia	SLEPENI	KONFIDENCIĀLI	DIENESTA VAJADZĪBĀM
Lithuania	SLAPTAI	KONFIDENCIALIAI	RIBOTO NAUDOJIMO
Luxembourg	SECRET LUX	CONFIDENTIEL LUX	RESTREINT LUX
Malta	SIGRIET	KUNFIDENZJALI	RISTRETT
Netherlands	Stg. GEHEIM	Stg. CONFIDENTIEEL	Dep. VERTROUWELIJK
Poland	TAJNE	POUFNE	ZASTRZEŻONE
Portugal	SEGRETO	CONFIDENCIAL	RESERVADO <i>(Note 6, see below)</i>
Romania	STRICT SECRET	SECRET	SECRET DE SERVICIU
Slovakia	TAJNÉ	DÔVERNÉ	VYHRADENÉ
Slovenia	TAJNO	ZAUPNO	INTERNO
Spain	RESERVADO <i>(Note 6, see below)</i>	CONFIDENCIAL	DIFUSIÓN LIMITADA
Sweden	HEMLIG	KONFIDENTIELL	BEGRÄNSAT HEMLIIG

Notes:

Note 1 Belgium: 'Diffusion Restreinte/Beperkte Verspreiding' is not a security classification in Belgium. Belgium handles and protects RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED information and classified information bearing the national classification markings of RESTRICTED level in a manner no less stringent than the standards and procedures described in the security rules of the Council of the European Union.

Note 2 France: Information generated by France before 1 July 2021 and classified SECRET DÉFENSE and CONFIDENTIEL DÉFENSE continues to be handled and protected at the equivalent level of SECRET UE/EU SECRET and CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL respectively.

Note 3 France: France handles and protects CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL information in accordance with the French security measures for protecting SECRET information.

Note 4 France: France does not use the classification 'RESTREINT' in its national system. France handles and protects RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED information in a manner no less stringent than the standards and procedures described in the security rules of the Council of the European Union. France will handle classified information bearing the national classification markings of RESTRICTED level in accordance with its national rules and regulations in force for 'DIFFUSION RESTREINTE'. The other Participants will handle and protect information marked 'DIFFUSION RESTREINTE' according to their national laws and regulations in force for the level RESTRICTED or equivalent, and according to the standards defined in the present document.

Note 5 Germany: VS = Verschlusssache.

Note 6 Portugal and Spain: Attention is drawn to the fact that the markings RESERVADO used by Portugal and Spain refer to different classifications.