



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
Directorate-General for Trade

Guidance note – Research with an exclusive focus on civil applications

1. Background

For Horizon Europe, only research and innovation activities focusing on civil applications are eligible for funding. Research intended to be used in military applications, cannot be funded.

This note provides some guidelines to help you determine whether your research meets this criterion.

2. How to determine if your research has an exclusive focus on civil applications?

If your research is intended to be used for a military application or aims to serve military purposes, it cannot be funded under Horizon Europe.

Projects involving the defence industry or military organisations are not automatically excluded from funding. However, their participation can be justified only if they are involved in research activities exclusively focused on civil applications.

Examples of funded projects

Projects involving the defence industry or military organisations such as: the UK Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI), the Italian Ministry of Defence).

The research and innovation for maritime security and surveillance can involve Navies from various Member States. Depending on national systems, Navies have often various civil tasks, from prevention of crime at sea to search and rescue activities.

A considerable number of technologies and products are generic and can address the needs of both civil and military users. They are called 'dual-use goods or technologies'. If your research is intended to develop or improve dual-use technologies or goods, it may still qualify for funding, as long as the goods or technologies are intended for civil applications.

3. How to address the exclusive focus on civil applications criterion in your proposal?

In your application, you will have to confirm that:

1. the research activities proposed have an exclusive focus on civil applications , and
2. that in case the proposed research activities involve dual-use items, in the sense of Regulation [428/2009](#), or other items for which an authorisation is required, you will comply with the related legal obligations (e.g. export/import licences etc.) prior to

use, import/export of these items.

The exclusive focus on civil applications of your proposed research will be checked during the scientific review of your proposal.

During the lifetime of the project, the compliance with the confirmations and relevant legal obligations mentioned above, can be checked as part of the project review.

Further reading

[Commission Recommendation on internal compliance programmes for controls of research involving dual-use items](#)

EU Regulation No [428/2009](#) setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items

[Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention](#)

[UN Security Council Resolution 1540](#)

[JRC Science for Policy Report 2019: Security and Defence Research in the European Union: A landscape review](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	03.11.2015	Initial version.
1.1	07.11.2020	Updated to VM4.0 / insertion of header
2.0	14.09.2021	Update for Horizon Europe.