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.

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

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