



## 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

**Only** research and innovation **activities** focusing on **civil applications** are **eligible for funding** under Horizon 2020. Research intended to be used in military applications, cannot be funded under this framework programme.

This note provides some guidelines to help you determine whether or not your research meets this criterion.

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

If your research is intended to be used in military application or aims to serve military purposes, it cannot be funded under Horizon 2020.

As long as your research is intended for non-military activities, it could be eligible for funding.

Projects involving the defence industry or military organisations are not automatically excluded from funding. Research on defence related subjects may still qualify for funding, as long as its aims are exclusively focused on civil applications.

#### *Examples of previously funded projects which complied with the exclusive focus on civil applications criterion:*

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

*Projects on defence related subjects such as: explosives, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence or counter-terrorism.*

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.

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

If your planned research has an exclusive focus on civil applications, you will need to do the following when preparing your proposal:

- tick the box in the ethics table in part A
- clearly state in part B how your research will focus exclusively on civil applications.

### **Further information**

[Guidance — How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#)

[Guidance note — Research involving dual use items](#)

Article 19(2) of the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme Regulation No [1291/2013](#)

[Commission Communication: Towards a more competitive and efficient defence and security sector](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	03.11.2015	Initial version
1.1	07.01.2020	Updated to VM4.0 / insertion of header