



## Internal Security Fund - Police

### Call for proposals document

Call for proposals for alternative and counter narrative campaigns supporting the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism – Civil Society Empowerment Programme (CSEP)

ISFP-2017-AG-CSEP

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## INTERNAL SECURITY FUND POLICE (2014-2020)

### 2017 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

#### ISFP-2017-AG-CSEP

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR ALTERNATIVE AND COUNTER NARRATIVE CAMPAIGNS SUPPORTING THE PREVENTION OF RADICALISATION LEADING TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM – CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (CSEP)

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Article 67(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) declares as the European Union's objective ensuring a high level of security within an area of freedom, security and justice.

To achieve this objective, enhanced actions at European Union level should be taken to protect people and goods from increasingly transnational threats and to support the work carried out by Member States' competent authorities. Terrorism, organised crime, itinerant crime, drug trafficking, corruption, cybercrime, trafficking in human beings and arms, inter alia, continue to challenge the internal security of the Union.

The Internal Security Strategy for the European Union (Internal Security Strategy), adopted by the Council in February 2010, constituted a shared agenda for tackling these common security challenges and identified the following relevant strategic objectives for 2010-2014: to disrupt international crime networks, to prevent terrorism and address radicalisation and recruitment, to raise levels of security for citizens and businesses in cyberspace and to increase Europe's resilience in the face of crises and disasters.

To promote the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy and to ensure that it becomes an operational reality, the Internal Security Fund (ISF Police) was set up.

In April 2015 the European Commission adopted the European Agenda on Security (EAS) for the coming five years, which builds on the actions undertaken under the previous Internal Security Strategy, thus ensuring consistent and continued action. The EAS represents an effective and coordinated response at European level to new and complex threats and sets out how the European Union can bring added value to support the Member States in ensuring security. It has identified the following three priorities: tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation, disrupting organised crime and fighting cybercrime.

On the basis of the EAS, the Council adopted in June 2015 the renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy 2015-2020 confirming tackling and preventing terrorism, radicalisation to terrorism and recruitment as well as financing related to terrorism, preventing and fighting serious and organised crime and preventing and fighting cybercrime as the main priorities for European Union's actions.

Legal basis of ISF Police are the following regulations:

- Regulation (EU) No 513/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150 of 20 May 2014);
- Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150 of 20 May 2014).

The ISF Police Regulation sets out two specific objectives, respectively:

- (i) crime prevention, combating cross-border, serious and organised crime including terrorism, and reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities of Member States, including with Europol or other relevant Union bodies, and with relevant third countries and international organisations;
- (ii) enhancing the capacity of Member States and the Union for managing effectively security-related risks and crises, and preparing for and protecting people and critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and other security-related incidents.

In conformity with Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 Article 6.2, in order to implement the ISF Police, the Commission has adopted, on **27 September 2017**, the 2017 Annual Work Programme for Union actions<sup>1</sup>, which includes this Call for Proposals.

### **Background:**

Recent terrorist attacks have demonstrated once more how terrorists continue to use the Internet to radicalise, recruit and inspire followers, to prepare and incite attacks and then claim credit and glorify in the atrocities they inflict upon innocent citizens. Daesh, Al-Qaeda and other jihadi groups and their support networks are using communications to polarise European communities. They do so in multiple languages and across multiple platforms. Supporters proliferate the online content, tailoring it to local contexts and focusing on target audiences' concerns and grievances. Violent extreme right wing groups in Europe are themselves mobilising their own followers, communicating about Daesh brutality as justification for their own call to extremism and violence.

Evidence suggests that exposure to extremist propaganda online may serve as an important accelerating factor in radicalisation processes.<sup>2</sup> There is a need to address all forms of terrorism and extremism leading to violence online, whether inspired by terrorist propaganda from listed organisations, right wing or left wing extremism or polarising, populist movements, affecting the EU.

As foreseen in the European Agenda on Security, the Commission established the EU Internet Forum in December 2015 to address the sharp rise in terrorists' use of the internet. One of the EU Internet Forum's objectives addresses the **need to support civil society partners to provide effective alternative and counter narratives to terrorist and extremist content online**. In June 2016, the Commission adopted the Communication supporting the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism (COM(2016)379) which set up the Civil Society Empowerment Programme (CSEP).

The programme is implemented in several phases. A first phase focuses on capacity building, covering a training programme across Europe for civil society organisations,

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<sup>1</sup> [C\(2017\)6343](#)

<sup>2</sup> For further research on online radicalisation:  
 Violent Extremism and Terrorism Online in 2016: The Year in Review: [http://www.voxpol.eu/download/vox-pol\\_publication/Year-in-Review-2016\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.voxpol.eu/download/vox-pol_publication/Year-in-Review-2016_FINAL.pdf)  
 Online Behaviours of Convicted Terrorists: [http://www.voxpol.eu/download/vox-pol\\_publication/Online-Behaviours\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.voxpol.eu/download/vox-pol_publication/Online-Behaviours_FINAL.pdf), and  
 Future Trends: Live-streaming Terrorist Attacks: [http://www.voxpol.eu/download/vox-pol\\_publication/Live-streaming\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.voxpol.eu/download/vox-pol_publication/Live-streaming_FINAL.pdf)

implemented through the RAN Centre of Excellence<sup>3</sup>. The current call for proposals constitutes phase 2 of the programme. The third phase will be dedicated to an evaluation of the programme.<sup>4</sup>

## 2. PRIORITIES OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The goal of this Call for Proposals is to support projects of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that pursue all of the objectives below:

- address target audiences in the EU susceptible and vulnerable to radicalising and terrorist content online<sup>5</sup>, those on the brink of radicalisation as well as those who have already been radicalised (target audiences' perceived or real grievances<sup>6</sup> should be addressed);
- provide the target audience with credible alternatives and positive narratives or expose and challenge terrorist and extremist online propaganda<sup>7</sup>;
- address push and pull factors of terrorist and extremist content online;
- actively contribute to promoting tolerance and EU/democratic fundamental rights and values.

The projects, implementing effective alternative and counter-narrative campaigns online, should contribute to:

- bringing about behaviour change dissuading target audience from promoting terrorism and violent extremism and/or using violence;
- growing civic engagement and take active stance in democratic processes by target audiences;
- halting radicalisation and recruitment processes;
- enhancing (digital) resilience and critical thinking of the target audience against terrorist and extremist propaganda on-and offline.

The projects shall contribute to the overall Civil Society Empowerment Programme by:

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<sup>3</sup>RAN CSEP website: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/civil-society-empowerment-programme\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/civil-society-empowerment-programme_en) . All training materials are available online: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/civil-society-empowerment-programme/training\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/civil-society-empowerment-programme/training_en)

<sup>4</sup> For the description of the CSEP programme please see the ex post paper of the EU Internet Forum-Civil Society Empowerment Programme Kick-off workshop : [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/rancsep/docs/csep\\_kick\\_off\\_workshop\\_brussels\\_15-16\\_03\\_2017\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/rancsep/docs/csep_kick_off_workshop_brussels_15-16_03_2017_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> The call addresses all forms of extremism leading to violence, whether inspired by terrorist propaganda from listed organisations, right wing or left wing extremism, as well as polarising, populist movements, affecting the EU.

<sup>6</sup> Refer to RAN paper on root-causes of radicalisation: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/ran-papers/docs/issue\\_paper\\_root-causes\\_jan2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/ran-papers/docs/issue_paper_root-causes_jan2016_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> We refer to alternative narratives as those that undercut violent extremist narratives by focusing on positive stories about social values, tolerance, openness, freedom and democracy – providing an alternative. Counter narratives are seen as those that directly deconstruct, discredit and demystify violent extremist messages. For further details, please refer to RAN papers on counter narratives and alternative narratives:

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/ran-papers/docs/issue\\_paper\\_cn\\_oct2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/ran-papers/docs/issue_paper_cn_oct2015_en.pdf)

as well as RAN paper on jihadist propaganda and how to respond: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/about-ran/ran-c-and-n/docs/ran\\_cn\\_workshop\\_jihadist\\_propaganda\\_amsterdam\\_3-4\\_2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/about-ran/ran-c-and-n/docs/ran_cn_workshop_jihadist_propaganda_amsterdam_3-4_2016_en.pdf)

- strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation between civil society organisations - particularly local/grass-root ones, researchers, Internet companies, creative and communication companies and where relevant other stakeholders in the area of alternative and counter narratives preventing radicalisation and violent extremism online;
- empowering credible voices in providing alternative and/or counter narratives online;
- encouraging use of online reporting channels and tools.

The projects should result in the following deliverables:

- online communication campaign(s) developing an alternative or counter narrative for a well-defined target audience that is vulnerable to radicalisation, combined, where appropriate, with off-line activities designed to maximise the impact of the campaign;
- a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the reach and impact of the campaign, accompanied by a set of lessons learned and good practices for future similar campaigns, to be shared amongst the CSEP and RAN network.

Proposals which:

- exclusively focus on offline campaigns;
- exclusively focus on identifying and referring extremist online content;
- are exclusively governmental communication campaigns without involvement of civil society;
- general information or awareness-raising campaigns for the public at large;
- do not foresee an evaluation of the reach and impact<sup>8</sup> of their communication campaigns;
- exclusively focus on tackling hate speech as defined by the framework decision on racism and xenophobia<sup>9</sup> or do not address radicalisation leading to violent extremism;

will not be considered for funding under this Call for Proposals.

Any action under this Call for Proposals shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Applications should pay appropriate attention to the effects of the project on individual rights and freedoms, as well as to possible remedies. In addition, any action under this Call for Proposals should comply with all relevant ethical principles and all applicable international, EU and national law on ethical issues while carrying out the project.

### 3. TIMETABLE

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
a)	Publication of the call	05/10/2017
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	11/01/2018 - 17:00 Brussels time

<sup>8</sup> The reach aspect can take account of social media analytics, as well as the number of views, likes, shares and comments etc. The impact aspect has to explain how once the campaign reached the intended audience, it delivered the intended impact. Evidence will be sought on qualitative and quantitative research conducted to that effect.

<sup>9</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:328:0055:0058:en:PDF>

c)	Evaluation period	January-April 2018
d)	Information to applicants	May 2018
e)	Signature of Grant Agreement	June 2018
f)	Starting date of the action	Second half of 2018

#### **4. BUDGET AVAILABLE**

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at **EUR 6.000.000** (six million euros).

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

#### **5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Applications must be sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 3.

Applications must be submitted using the Electronic Submission System of the Participant Portal originally developed for the Horizon 2020 Research programmes.

Applications must be submitted using the standard Submission Form Part A and Part B. They must include all the mandatory information and be accompanied (if applicable) by the Audit Report<sup>10</sup> Annexes.

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

Projects cannot be scheduled to last more than 24 months<sup>11</sup>. Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period will be rejected.

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

#### **6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

##### **6.1. Eligible applicants and applications**

In order to be eligible for a grant, the Applicant and the Co-applicants must be:

- a) legal persons; applications from natural persons are not eligible;
- b) public bodies or private entities ;
- c) established in a Member State of the European Union participating in the ISF Police instrument<sup>12</sup>. In duly justified cases where their participation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the programme, the Co-applicants may also be established in a third country<sup>13</sup>. For this call, eligible third countries are those highlighted as priority countries in the European Agenda on Security: Turkey, Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, countries in the Western Balkans as well as EFTA countries;

<sup>10</sup> If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (Applicant or Co-applicant) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must also provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year.

<sup>11</sup> The project duration may be extended during its implementation for duly justified reasons subject to the Commission's approval via an amendment to the Grant Agreement.

<sup>12</sup> All EU Member States, with the exception of United Kingdom and Denmark, are participating in the ISF Police instrument. Legal entities established in the United Kingdom (unless the United Kingdom decides to opt in and to participate in the ISF Police) or Denmark cannot participate in this call.

<sup>13</sup> A third country is a country, which is not an EU Member State. The United Kingdom and Denmark cannot be considered as third countries. <sup>14</sup> Please refer, amongst others: RAN C&N paper on : How to measure the impact of your online counter or alternative narrative campaign [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/docs/pages/201702\\_ran\\_how\\_to\\_measure\\_impact\\_of\\_online\\_campaign\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/docs/pages/201702_ran_how_to_measure_impact_of_online_campaign_en.pdf)

- d) member of the CSEP network registered in the database set up at the following link : <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CSEPPregistration>. The CSEP network is developed to facilitate mutual learning, encourage synergies between projects where possible and increase transparency.

In order to be eligible for a grant, applications must be:

- a) submitted by a consortium between a civil society organisation and at least two other co-applicants;
- b) seeking EU co-funding equal to or more than EUR 250.000 and equal to or less than EUR 1.000.000;
- c) activities must not have started prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

Union agencies can be neither Applicants nor Co-applicants.

Affiliated entities, i.e. legal entities having a legal or capital link with Applicants, shall take part in the action as individual Co-applicants in order to declare eligible costs.

To prove these eligibility requirements, Applicants and Co-applicants will have to provide the relevant information and upload necessary documents showing their legal status in the Beneficiary Register. The information needs to be provided before the submission deadline.

## **6.2. Eligible activities**

The following types of activities are eligible under this Call for Proposals:

- a) development of the communication strategy for the alternative or counter narrative campaign, including:
  - research and analysis necessary for the development of a communication action including target audience analysis (beyond demographic and statistical data, including motivations, triggers, beliefs and influencers), campaign objective and goal setting, key messages, etc.;
  - defining of an evaluation methodology and establishment of key performance indicators;
  - creation and production of the campaign with communications/creative/marketing specialists and agencies (incl. audiovisual elements of the campaigns like spots, videos, podcasts, video games, smartphone apps, images, etc);
  - dissemination of the campaign on line (e.g. media buying), including regular posting/supervision/moderation on social media and blogs).
- b) "offline" activities- when these are used as catalysts for communication actions and helping to amplify the communication campaign messages and in the longer term helping measure the behavioural change the campaigns have brought about, such as:
  - organisation of supporting events, including the production of information and promotion materials (e.g. badges, posters, promotional items...);
  - participation in awareness raising events.
- c) a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the success of the communication campaign, including at least the assessment of its reach and impact<sup>14</sup>;

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<sup>14</sup> Please refer, amongst others: RAN C&N paper on : How to measure the impact of your online counter or alternative narrative campaign [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/docs/pages/201702\\_ran\\_how\\_to\\_measure\\_impact\\_of\\_online\\_campaign\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/docs/pages/201702_ran_how_to_measure_impact_of_online_campaign_en.pdf)

- d) development of lessons learned and good practices of the communication campaign to be actively shared within the CSEP and RAN network;
- e) training for staff managing the campaign to have the necessary skills and resilience to engage in controversial/hostile online environment;
- f) capacity building to ensure sustainability of the campaign and online efforts to provide alternative narratives;
- g) management of the project.

## **7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the Call for Proposals procedure and from the grant award if they are in any of the situations referred to in articles 131(4) of the EU Financial Regulation<sup>15</sup>, i.e. one of the following situations:

### **7.1. Exclusion from participation in the Call for Proposals**

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;
- (d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of Belgium or those of the country where the action is to be implemented;
- (e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty for: being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in a procurement or grant award procedure or for failing to supply this information; or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under grant agreements or contracts financed by the Union's budget.

### **7.2. Exclusion from award**

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the grant award procedure, they:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the action;

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<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ 2012 L298, p. 1).

- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in section 7.1.

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on Applicants and Co-applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation.

## **8. SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **8.1. Financial capacity**

Applicants and Co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding. Organisations participating in several projects shall have sufficient financial capacity to implement multiple projects.

Financial capacity check will be performed by the Research Executive Agency (REA). It will be assessed in line with the requirements of the Financial Regulation (EC) No 966/2012.

The documents that will be requested when assessing the financial capacity include (1) the profit and loss account and (2) the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts were closed. For newly created entities the business plan may replace the above documents.

The financial documents must be uploaded in the Beneficiary Register when uploading the application package.

In case of low financial capacity, the Commission may decide the following:

- request further documents;
- request budget modifications / reallocations of costs;
- introduce interim payments based on interim reports;
- modify pre-financing percentage.

In case of insufficient financial capacity, the Commission may decide the following:

- request a change of Co-applicant;
- reject the application.

Financial Capacity assessment **will not be carried out** if:

- the Applicant or Co-applicant is a public body;
- the EU contribution requested by the Applicant or Co-applicant is  $\leq$  EUR 60 000.

If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (Applicant or Co-applicant) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must also provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year. This provision shall not apply to public bodies.

### **8.2. Operational capacity**

Applicants and Co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action. This capacity shall be assessed based on the experience of the Applicants and each Co-applicant or, as an alternative, on the relevant experience of their directly involved employees.

As evidence, the following information must be provided in the Submission Form Part B of the proposal:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff primary responsible for managing and implementing the proposed action to be described under point 5.1.3,

- list of projects funded from an EU institution or agency in the last 4 years to be indicated under point 6.2.

The operational capacity assessment is not applicable to public bodies and international organisations.

## 9. AWARD CRITERIA

Eligible applications and their proposed action will be assessed on the basis of the following award criteria:

Award Criteria	Maximum Points	Threshold
1. Relevance	30	21
2. Quality of the project	20	-
3. Cost effectiveness	20	-
4. European added value	20	-
5. Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact	10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65</b>

- Relevance: applications will be assessed on the extent to which they match the priorities and expected outcomes as identified in this Call for Proposals (section 2 above) and in the relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans (section 1 above), and on whether the expected impact will be significant on the selected priority(ies). (30 points).

Applications receiving less than 21 points for the "relevance" criterion will not be evaluated further.

- Quality: applications will be assessed with regards to the appropriateness of their design and planned implementation, taking into account the envisaged activities, methodology (including the communication campaigns' evaluation methodology), organisation of work and strategy for project management, project evaluation and dissemination. Projects submitted need to provide clear and specific goals, objectives and key messages. Projects need to demonstrate that the target audience is well understood in terms of who they are, which language they use, which online platforms they use and which messages resonate with it. A suitable choice of activities and communication means should be made with respect of the project strategy. Projects need to show that existing knowledge and expertise has been taken into consideration for developing the campaigns (such as those developed by RAN Centre of Excellence or those emerging from the training in the first phase of CSEP<sup>16</sup>). (20 points);

<sup>16</sup> Refer to CSEP training materials: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/civil-society-empowerment-programme/training\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/civil-society-empowerment-programme/training_en)

RAN C&N paper on : How to measure the impact of your online counter or alternative narrative campaign [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/docs/pages/201702\\_ran\\_how\\_to\\_measure\\_impact\\_of\\_online\\_campaign\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/docs/pages/201702_ran_how_to_measure_impact_of_online_campaign_en.pdf)

RAN paper on jihadist propaganda and how to respond: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/about-ran/ran-c-and-n/docs/ran\\_cn\\_workshop\\_jihadist\\_propaganda\\_amsterdam\\_3-4\\_2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/about-ran/ran-c-and-n/docs/ran_cn_workshop_jihadist_propaganda_amsterdam_3-4_2016_en.pdf)

- Cost-effectiveness: applications will be assessed with regards to whether the costs of the proposed action are adequate to the activities and proportionate to the expected results (20 points);
- European added value: the project activities, outcomes and impact should have a broad EU relevance; applications will be assessed on whether the outcomes and results ensure an EU added value in the form of transferability (e.g. methods) to other Member States and complementarity/transferability to European measures/actions in the area of prevention of radicalisation. (20 points).
- Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact:. Projects must include measurement for result and impact<sup>17</sup>, clear evaluation criteria need to be researched in the onset to facilitate the evaluation during and after the project. Sustainability of action and exchanges amongst beneficiaries are to be ensured, amongst others, via systematical exchanges and interaction with the RAN and the CSEP network. (10 points).

Applications that pass the threshold of minimum 65 points will be considered for funding within the limits of the available budget.

## **10. LEGAL COMMITMENTS**

The award of each grant is subject to the conclusion of a Grant Agreement in writing.

The coordinators of projects proposed for funding will be invited to engage in a grant agreement preparation process, which will be carried out via an online IT system (SYGMA). If successful, this process will conclude with the signature of a Grant Agreement, drawn up in euro and detailing the conditions and level of funding.

The Grant Agreement must be signed electronically first by the coordinator on behalf of the consortium and then by the European Commission. All co-beneficiaries must accede to the Grant Agreement by signing electronically the accession form to the grant.

Please note, that if international organisations are involved in the application, no other specific clauses applicable to international organisations than the ones already included in the Model Grant Agreement will be added.

Please note that the award of a grant does not establish any entitlement for subsequent years.

## **11. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

### **11.1. General Principles**

#### a) Non-cumulative award

An action may only receive one grant from the EU budget.

In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the Union budget. To ensure this, applicants shall indicate the sources and amounts of Union funding received or

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<sup>17</sup> In line with the desired outcomes highlighted in chapter 2:

- bringing about behaviour change dissuading target audience from promoting terrorism and violent extremism and/or using violence;
- growing civic engagement and take active stance in democratic processes by target audiences;
- halting radicalisation and recruitment processes;
- enhancing (digital) resilience and critical thinking of the target audience against terrorist and extremist propaganda on-and offline.

applied for the same action or part of the action or for its functioning during the same financial year as well as any other funding received or applied for the same action (Submission Form Part B, section 6).

b) Non-retroactivity

No grant may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed. A grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only where the Applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the Grant Agreement is signed. In any case, costs eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

c) Co-financing

Co-financing means that the resources which are necessary to carry out the action may not be entirely provided by the EU grant.

Co-financing of the action may take the form of:

- the Beneficiary's own resources,
- income generated by the action,
- financial contributions from third parties.

d) Balanced budget

The Budget Estimate of the action is to be attached to the Application Form. It must have revenue and expenditure in balance and must be drawn up in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in a currency other than the euro shall convert costs incurred in another currency into euro at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of Official Journal of the European Union, determined over the corresponding reporting period.<sup>18</sup> Where no daily euro exchange rate is published in the Official Journal of the European Union for the currency in question, conversion shall be made at the average of the monthly accounting rates established by the Commission and published on its [website](#), determined over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro shall convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

Where the implementation of the action requires the award of procurement contracts (implementation contracts), the Beneficiary must award the contract to the bid offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests and retaining the documentation for the event of an audit. Detailed information on subcontracting is provided in the Guide for Applicants.

e) Financial support to third parties

The applications may not envisage provision of financial support to third parties.

f) Non-profit rule

EU grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action. Profit shall be defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the Beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance. In this respect, where a profit is made, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the Beneficiary to carry out the action.

## **11.2. Maximum amount requested**

The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-funding rate of 90% of the total eligible costs of the action.

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<sup>18</sup> For further guidance on exchange rate please consult the Guide for Applicants.

Consequently, part of the total eligible expenses entered in the Forecast Budget Calculation must be financed from sources other than the EU grant (see section 11.1.c).

The Commission reserves the right to reduce the estimated costs in the Forecast Budget Calculation, if they are deemed as ineligible.

### **11.3. Payment arrangements**

A pre-financing payment corresponding to maximum 80% of the EU grant amount will be transferred to the Coordinator after the signature of the Grant Agreement by both parties and in accordance with its terms.

The Commission will establish the amount of the final payment to be made to the Coordinator on the basis of the calculation of the final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, the Beneficiaries will be required to reimburse the amount paid in excess by the Commission through a recovery order.

## **12. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

### **12.1. How to apply**

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline indicated in section 3 via the Electronic Submission System. The list of available calls can be found at the [calls for proposals page](#).

Before submitting a proposal both the Applicant and Co-applicants must be registered via the [Beneficiary Register](#) and obtain the 9-digit [Participant Identification Code \(PIC\)](#) (one for each applicant).

In submitting a proposal, the Applicant accepts the procedures and conditions as described in this Call for Proposals and in the documents to which it refers.

No modification of the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the Applicant for this purpose during the evaluation process<sup>19</sup>.

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the evaluation process.

### **12.2. Related documents**

The following documents are available via the Electronic Submission System:

- Application form (Submission Form Part A and Part B)
- Required annex Audit Report<sup>20</sup>(if applicable)
- Model Grant Agreement
- Guide for applicants

### **12.3. Applications for several projects**

The Applicant may submit more than one application under this call for proposals.

The Applicant may be awarded more than one grant under this call for proposals.

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<sup>19</sup> Article 96 of the Financial Regulation

<sup>20</sup> If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (Applicant or Co-applicant) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must also provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year.

An organisation may participate as Applicant or Co-applicant in several applications.

#### **12.4. Several applications for the same project**

Only one application will be accepted and evaluated for any given project. In case there are several applications for the same project, the Applicant will be asked to clarify which application shall be evaluated.

An action may receive only one grant from the EU budget.

#### **12.5. Contacts**

For questions on the online submission tools, please contact the [IT helpdesk](#) set-up for this purpose via the Participant Portal website.

Non-IT related questions shall be sent to the following email address: [HOME-ISF@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HOME-ISF@ec.europa.eu). In order to ensure an efficient handling of any enquiry please indicate clearly the reference of this Call for Proposals.

Questions will be answered as soon as possible. Questions received later than 7 calendar days before the deadline for submitting applications will not be answered. In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants or actions or on the outcome of the Call for Proposals before the official announcement of results.

Applicants are advised to consult the Call's website regularly. The Commission will publish at this website any additional information relevant to the Call, such as responses to frequently asked questions (if appropriate) and the results of the selection procedure.

### **13. PUBLICITY**

#### **13.1. By the Beneficiaries**

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used. Please refer to the Grant Agreement for more details.

#### **13.2. By the Commission**

All information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on an internet site of the European Union institutions no later than the 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded. The Commission will publish the following information:

- name and address of the beneficiary,
- subject of the grant,
- amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the Beneficiary, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the beneficiaries.

### **14. DATA PROTECTION**

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CVs of individuals participating in the co-financed action). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European

Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested in order to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the Call for Proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the Commission or third parties acting on behalf and under the responsibility of the Commission. Data subjects may be informed regarding further details of the processing operations, their rights and how they may be enforced by referring to the privacy statement published in the [Legal Notice page](#) of the Participant Portal.

Applicants are invited to check the relevant privacy statement at regular intervals so as to be duly informed on possible updates that may occur by the deadline for submission of their proposals or afterwards. Beneficiaries assume the legal obligation to inform their staff on the relevant processing operations that are to be performed by the Research Executive Agency; in order to do so, they have to provide them with the privacy statements published by the Agency in the Participant Portal before transmitting their data to the Agency. Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) of the European Commission provided for in Articles 105a and 108 of the EU Financial Regulation according to the applicable provisions.

## **15. MEANS OF REDRESS**

If, at any stage of the administrative treatment of grant applications, the persons or entities concerned consider that they have been affected by an instance of maladministration, they may, irrespective of any other means of redress, make a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and as provided by the Parliament Decision of 9 March 1994 on the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties published in Official Journal L 113 of 4 May 1994.