SECURE SOCIETIES 2020 CALL

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (in red)

INFRA CALL:

As it happened in former calls (i.e. 2019 CALL), is the Commission going to provide information through the "Funding and Tenders portal" on the proposals funded under topics that will open again in 2020, so that participants can learn, as soon as possible, on their scope and research areas, in order to avoid duplication in the research?

When will this information be available and in which format?

The Participants can find the "funded projects list" in each call-page (at the end of the page), when the grant agreements are signed. From there, they can find links to the details of each project in CORDIS.

Are UK practitioners valid for eligibility and admissibility conditions?

As regards Brexit, in conformity with the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement, the UK and persons or entities established in the UK continue to be eligible to receive Union funds under actions carried out in direct, indirect or shared management, which implement Union programmes and activities committed under the MFF 2014-2020 until the closure of those Union programmes and activities. This includes Horizon 2020 actions. When restrictions apply these will be clearly specified in the call for proposals.

For further information regarding Brexit: The EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement (Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community) is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/agreement-withdrawal-united-kingdom-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-european-union-and-european-atomic-energy-community_en

- What are the critical infrastructure sectors eligible for 2020?

-Do we understand correctly that the call does not focus on creating/testing/deploying of new hardware technologies (e.g. sensors, intelligent circuit breakers etc.)?

-How many different infrastructures should be included in the proposal? Example: primary infrastructure is electric transmission distribution grid. If we focus on the cascading effects on gas CI, would this be sufficient or do we have to include more CIs? What do you recommend?

-Taking into account the limited project duration (24 months) does the EC expect to cover fewer scenarios that will be equally elaborated at all involved infrastructures or to have more scenarios that

will be elaborated in detail on the primary CI and only the implications resulting from the failure of the primary CI will be identified on the secondary CIs?

We would like to underline that the specific focus of the proposals is the responsibility or the applicants, while no specific solutions or technologies have been excluded. We do not prescribe additional aspects and cannot provide additional recommendations beyond what is written in the topic text. It is for the applicants to decide how to best achieve the expected impacts listed in the topic text and its call conditions, taking into account the specific maximum duration of the projects.

TOPIC SU-INFRA01

1. In call 2020, the topic text states: "In 2020, while keeping the coverage of the assessment of risks, prevention, detection, response and mitigation of consequences, proposals should also address the interrelations between different types of critical infrastructure with the objective of developing tools and methods to minimise cascading effects and allow rapid recovery of service performance levels after incidents." Does that mean the more than 1 sector must be addressed in the proposals? What about sub-sectors? Would it be eligible a proposal focusing, for example, exclusively in the TRANSPORT sector, but in the cascading effects of different TRANSPORT subsectors such as railway or multimodal nodes?

2. Will information on funded projects under CIP or INFRA calls be made available to participants soon?

3. How many demos must be included in the proposals? Should the proposals include one or more demos?

4. Are all the critical sectors eligible for the 2020 call or only those that have not been covered in the period 2016-2019?

5. With regards to the eligibility conditions in which it is mandatory that at least 2 operators are integrated in the consortium: if a proposal is focusing on different sectors and its interdependencies and cascading effect, how does this eligilibity condition apply? Would it be necessary to include more than 2 operators, in such a case? (i.e. 2 from the main infrastructure chosen and others from the "interdependencies" part)

1. As stated in the WP text, proposals should also address the interrelations between different types of critical infrastructure, including sub-sectors.
2. The information on the projects funded through the 2019 call will be made available once the Grant Agreements are signed (i.e. end of spring).
3. It is up to the applicants to decide how many demos are deemed necessary to achieve the desired results. Important is a logical link between demos and the scope of the project.
4. All the sectors listed in the topic INFRA01 are eligible under the condition of the 2020 call specifications.
5. The eligibility conditions request at least 2 operators of the chosen type of critical infrastructure operating in 2 Member States or Associated Countries must be beneficiaries. 6. If more than one CI is covered, then each should be represented by two operators.

SEC CALL

GENERAL QUESTION ON HUMAN FACTORS TOPICS:

Can you please, explain the difference between Human factors, social and societal aspects? Can you, please, give examples?

We would refer you to the descriptions provided in the Work Programme on the difference between Human factors, social and societal aspects. We cannot provide you with further information beyond what is already available to all applicants.

TOPIC SU-DRS03

What kind of major crisis should be addressed in this topic?

Which is the policy related to this topic? Can you, please, make it available?

Can you please give some examples of "First aids vehicles"? Do these vehicles include fire engines?

1) The major crisis targets by the DRS03 topic in 2020 can be related to any kind of disaster either natural (including resulting from climate-related extremes) or man-made, and immediately after the event, for example in case of a mass evacuation from an urban area. Proposals should target in particular events where there are strong cross-sector, cross-border, cross-hierarchy coordination activities ongoing, and therefore the issue of interoperability.
2) We would refer you to the slides on the DRS call made for the info day, which can be accessed here: http://www.seren-project.eu/index.php/events/past-events
3) First aid vehicles comprise all vehicles used by first responder, which includes fire-fighter vehicles.

TOPIC SU-DRS04 (CBRN cluster):

When will the Capability gaps document, coming from ENCIRCLE project, be made available to all the participants? How can the participants sign the MoU with ENCIRCLE project? Who is the contact person? Can you, please, provide his/her contact details?

Do we understand it right that if we want to propose a project within DRS04 calls (CBRN cluster), do we need to cope with needs published in ENCIRCLE catalogue? Or how can we understand the link between the ENCIRCLE? It is an platform which ends in 2021.. If we will submit our idea within "Technologies for first responsers" Open subtopic call, in this case there is no link with ENCIRCLE?

- The ENCIRCLE documents as well as the contact details and further specifications can be found on the ENCIRCLE website: http://encircle-cbrn.eu/catalogue/.
- As stated in the call conditions, Each RIA must establish its standard consortium agreement, as well as a "Collaboration Agreement" with participant(s) in the ENCIRCLE consortium. A draft of the "Collaboration Agreement" must be attached to the RIA proposal, and endorsed by at least one participant in ENCIRCLE. All beneficiaries of the RIA grant agreements must be independent from each beneficiary in the ENCIRCLE consortium. These agreements do not depend on the end date of the ENCIRCLE project.
- The specific eligibility conditions of the topic DRS04-2020 do not concern the proposals for the DRS02-2020 topic.

TOPIC SU-FCT01 – SUB-TOPIC 3:

The topic mentions the relation between this sub-topic and ISF-Police funded projects. How can we access to this information? Can you provide the links to those projects, please?

We would invite you to consults the web site of DG HOME devoted to ISF-P programme, where you will find the extensive list of all awareded projects under Union actions part of ISF-P: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/internal-security-fund-police_en . For the national programmes, we would invite you to consult your national authorities.

TOPIC SU-FCT02:

- Sub-topic 3 "Money flows trakcing" → in the presentation from the Commission, it is mentioned that multiple related projects have been funded under the ISF-police programme. How can we get this information? Is there any web site where we could find these references?

- Sub-topic 4 "Development and deployment of technologies, tools and relevant infrastructure to identify speedily terrorist content online, and prevent its re-upload" ⬜ Could the topic include the development of online tools mainly focussing on monitoring djihadism and religious radicalization content? Or should the tool reach a wider scope of different sorts of terrorism?

- Sub-topic "OPEN" ⬜ On top of the 5 (minimum) LEAs required, can the tools developed under this topic be oriented also to first responders?

We would invite you to consults the web site of DG HOME devoted to ISF-P programme, where you will find the extensive list of all awareded projects under Union actions part of ISF-P: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/internal-security-fund-police_en . For the national programmes, we would invite you to consult your national authorities.

We would invite you to read COM(2018) 640 final, as the text of the topic is centred around it.

Nothing precludes the involvement of first responders, if it is within the scope of the proposed activities, and as long as they fulfil the overall requirements indicated in the text of the topic.

TOPIC SU-FCT03:

In 2020, proposals should address exclusively point b), with a focus on private operators.

Can you, please, provide examples of these possible private operators? How does this topic be complementary with the proposals funded under the same topic in 2018 and 2019?

We would refer you to the examples given in the topic text of FCT03 for the 2020 call: In 2020, proposals should address exclusively point b), with a focus on private operators. Although public authorities are primarily responsible for security, public-private cooperation is key in protecting public spaces. As an example, the first persons on the scene of a terrorist attack are often not police officers, but private security staff from local shops or transport operators. Moreover, public spaces are often owned and operated by private entities

TOPIC SU-BES02, sub-topic Open:

Are there any kind of orientations from the COM with regards to the fields of research that could be covered under this sub-topic?

We do not provide additional information beyond what is written in the work programme for the topic BES02. The aim of the open sub-topics is to give applicants the possibility to propose innovative concepts.

TOPIC BES-03

Is the Italian Navy (belonging to the Minister of Defence, but also carrying out civilian border security operations) eligible as coordinator for BES-03?

The eligibility criteria of BES03 state that "Consortia must be coordinated by a practitioner organization under civilian authority and command". In order to be eligible as a coordinator, the Italian Navy, would have to duly of the proposal how their legal basis is in compliance with this requirement.

DS CALL:

TOPIC SU-DS02:

Questions about topic DS02 Subtopic b)

1. As we understand we need to deliver some kind of sector agnostic solution. However we think vertical implementation of the developments would be needed in order to pilot the technologies. At this respect we are not sure which is the best strategy to follow. Should we go for 1 or 2 pilots in critical sectors which are more robust in threat intelligence (less to explore) but with more impact. Should we balance with a sector in which the threat intelligence is less explored. On the other hand, we know that several proposals have been funded in other topics (DS05) for specific critical sectors, these proposals are mainly focused on healthcare, finance or transport. Should we avoid this specific sectors to prevent double funding? Should we instead have a more horizontal view, not particularly linked to critical sectors?

2. When introducing the subtopic b it literally mentions *"Proposals should develop and test threat detection frameworks, which should to the extent possible include: (i)…, (ii)…, (iii)…, (iv)…, (v)…"*

Does this mean that we could decide which ones to address? or it is "recommended" to cover all of them.

3. We are a bit confused on how to interpret the phrase *"human aspects such as behavioural patterns, gender differences, privacy, ethics, sovereignty, psychology, linguistic and cultural boundaries."* As a topic with a clear technical orientation we are not sure how human factors should be included and addressed. Any orientation at this respect would be really helpful.

4. Finally, we have also some doubts about *"synchronised real time self- encryption/decryption schemes with recovery capabilities."* What should be the target of the self-encryption/decryption schemes? We are not sure how to address this issue (v) in combination with the ones before (i to iv)

1. While some overlap might be possible among different H2020 projects, proposals should strive to take account of and be complementary with relevant projects resulting from previous Horizon 2020 calls

Within the scope of the call text, it is up to applicants to choose the proposed approach, including the tools and services to develop and how to test these.

2. It is not strictly necessary for proposals to cover the five different elements which are enumerated under (i)…, (ii)…, (iii)…, (iv)…, (v)… It is up to applicants to cover under the proposed approach as many as possible of these five elements.

3. Proposals should go beyond the purely "technical" challenge and also address human aspects such as those given as examples. These aspects may be relevant considering either the attack side or the defence side in cybersecurity.

4. Encryption/decryption schemes may be relevant in an IoT context. Proposals are not strictly required to cover the five different elements which are enumerated under (i)…, (ii)…, (iii)…, (iv)…, (v)…

Questions about topic DS02 Subtopic c)

The topic states:

Proposals should address real application cases and at least one of the following services: automatic code generation, code and data auditing, trustworthy data boxes, forensics, certification and assurance, cyber insurance, cyber and AI ethics, and penetration testing.

Can you, please, give examples of the type of entities that should be involved in the real application cases?

It is for the applicants to identify the most suited entities, based on the scope of the topic text and the specific profiles needed for the proposed application cases.

TOPIC SU-DS04:

This topic makes reference to the BRIDGE PROJECT, which should be a reference for the proposals submitted under DS04. Can you, please, provide more information about this project and its deliverables? How can participants contact with the partners involved in this project?

Should proposals under this topic demonstrate synergies with projects funded in 2018 call? Any recommendations in this sense?

BRIDGE is a European Commission initiative which unites Horizon2020 Smart Grid and Energy Storage Projects to create a structured view of cross-cutting issues which are encountered in the demonstration projects and may constitute an obstacle to innovation. Inter alia BRIDGE has produced a report on Cybersecurity and Resilience. The website (http://www.h2020-bridge.eu/) referred to in the call text provides a contact form.

The call text does not explicitly request proposals to demonstrate synergies with projects funded in the 2018 call, but going beyond the state of art implies being aware of these projects and ensuring value-added beyond them.

AI CALL

General questions:

Please provide a list of policy documents and links as is done for other calls in the WP.

Will it be possible to use anonymised real datasets from my local Law Enforcement Authority in order to test the developed AI tool?

1) We would refer you to the policy documents referred to in the Work Programme under the AI call, notably in the footnotes of the AI call introduction.
2) It is for the applicants to assess which datasets can be used in compliance with existing EU and national legislation.

ETHICS

Where can I find ethics advisors in the field of SSH research? To plan a project on child sexual exploitation which will have severe research ethics aspects where I need support from ethics experts.

We would like to refer you to your National Contact Point (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp) for the identification of partners in proposals.

DS GENERAL INFO

Is the collaboration with the EU cybersecurity pilots and other relevant projects a prerequisite for submission of a proposal in DS?

An appropriate level of awareness of and of current/planned interaction with the four EU cybersecurity pilots as well as other relevant Horizon 2020 projects is expected. To this end proposals should demonstrate the intention to collaborate (e.g. planning already in their implementation plan for this collaboration). While it is not a prerequisite for submission (referred to as eligibility criteria), a clear description of planned collaborations with the pilots and other relevant projects is a strong plus in the evaluation of the proposal.