



# **Internal Security Fund – Police**

## **Call for proposals document**

Call for proposals on the Civil Society Empowerment Programme (CSEP) –  
campaigns with counter and alternative narrative to radicalisation  
implemented by Civil society organisations

ISFP-2018-AG-CT-CSEP

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## INTERNAL SECURITY FUND POLICE (2014-2020)

### 2018 CALL FOR PROPOSALS: ISFP-2018-AG-CT-CSEP

#### CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON THE CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (CSEP) – CAMPAIGNS WITH COUNTER AND ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVE TO RADICALISATION IMPLEMENTED BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

##### **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 for the coming five years, which builds on the actions undertaken under the previous Internal Security Strategy, thus ensuring consistent and continued action. The European Agenda on Security 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 European Agenda on Security, 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 **4 October 2018**, the 2018 Annual Work Programme for Union actions and emergency assistance<sup>1</sup>, which includes this Call for Proposals.

In the **Annual Work Programme** financial support is made available to projects tackling radicalisation addressing the extremists' and terrorists' continued use of the internet, by supporting the production of alternative/counter-narratives, in particular online, their dissemination and monitoring by civil society organisations, and the evaluation of their impact.

### **Background:**

Terrorist groups 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, which since its beginning has put in place an aggressive communication strategy, has been producing an average of 1200 new propaganda items every month in 2015-2017, according to VOX-Pol research. Following a decrease to 300 new items in December 2017, production increased again in early 2018 to 700 in January 2018 alone. According to Europol, over 150 social media platforms are identified as being abused by terrorists for propaganda dissemination. But also other organisations, such as 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.

Terrorist content shared online has proven to accelerate the 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, populistic 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**

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<sup>1</sup> [C\(2018\)6363I](#)

<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)

**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). A first call for proposals under the Civil Society Empowerment Programme was launched in October 2017. Furthermore, on 12 September 2018 the Commission presented a proposal for a Regulation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online, in recognition of the continued ease with which terrorists organisations are able to repeatedly upload and disseminate their propaganda, further radicalising vulnerable individuals and inciting terrorist acts.

The Civil Society Empowerment Programme is implemented in several phases. A first phase focused on capacity building, covering a training programme across Europe for civil society organisations, implemented through the RAN Centre of Excellence<sup>3</sup>. As part of phase 2 of the programme, the Commission has launched a first call for proposals in 2017 and now the current call. 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<sup>5</sup> (CSOs) that pursue all of the objectives below:

- address target audiences in the EU susceptible and vulnerable to radicalising and terrorist content online<sup>6</sup>, those on the brink of radicalisation as well as those who have already been radicalised (target audiences' perceived or real grievances<sup>7</sup> should be addressed);
- provide the well-defined target audience with credible alternatives and positive narratives or expose and challenge terrorist and extremist online propaganda<sup>8</sup>;
- address push and pull factors of terrorist and extremist content online;
- actively contribute to promoting tolerance and EU/democratic fundamental rights and values;
- empower civil society organisations, grass root organisations and other credible voices.

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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> See definition of CSO : [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/civil\\_society\\_organisation.html](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/civil_society_organisation.html)

<sup>6</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, populistic movements, affecting the EU.

<sup>7</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>8</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)

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

- bringing about behaviour change dissuading the target audience from promoting terrorism and violent extremism and/or using violence;
- growing civic engagement and taking 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:

- 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, such as public authorities, in the area of alternative and counter narratives preventing radicalisation and violent extremism online;
- encouraging use of online reporting channels and tools.

The projects should result in the following deliverables:

- online communication campaign(s):
  - created by or with the strong involvement of civil society partners embedded in a solid communication strategy, with a well-defined/measurable objective and call to action, and;
  - developing an alternative or counter narrative for a well-defined target audience in the EU 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 to be shared amongst the CSEP and RAN network.

Successful implementation of CSEP requires a high level of engagement of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local and grass root organisations. This should be reflected in the composition of the consortium.

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>9</sup> of their communication campaigns;
- exclusively focus on tackling hate speech as defined by the framework decision on racism and xenophobia<sup>10</sup> or do not address radicalisation leading to violent extremism;

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<sup>9</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.

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	11 October 2018
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	12 February 2019 – 17:00 Brussels Time
c)	Evaluation period	February 2019–June 2019
d)	Information to applicants	July 2019
e)	Signature of Grant Agreement	November 2019
f)	Starting date of the action	Second half 2019

### **4. BUDGET AVAILABLE**

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at **EUR 4 000 000**.

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

### **5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

#### **5.1. General eligibility provisions**

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<sup>11</sup>.

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>12</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>13</sup>. Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period will be rejected.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:328:0055:0058:en:PDF>

<sup>11</sup> The Participant Portal will in the near future be replaced by the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (FTOP).

<sup>12</sup> If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (applicant or co-applicant) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year

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

## **5.2. 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>14</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>15</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;
- d) member of the CSEP network registered in the database set up at the following link : <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CSERegistration>. 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 of at least three entities;
- 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.

International organisation<sup>16</sup> can be neither Applicants nor Co-applicants

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.

## **5.3. 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,

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<sup>13</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>14</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>15</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>16</sup> The term "international organisations" is used in this Call for Proposals as defined in Article 156 of the Financial Regulation (Euratom 2018/1046);

(a) international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements, and specialised agencies set up by such organisations;  
(b) the International Committee of the Red Cross;  
(c) the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;  
(d) other non-profit organisations assimilated to international organisations by a Commission decision.

- including motivations, triggers, believes 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.) and validation of campaign (e.g. by an expert panel);
  - 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>17</sup>; d
- 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 and regular reporting.

## **6. 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 exclusion situations referred to in articles 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation<sup>18</sup>, i.e. one of the following situations:

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

- (a) the person or entity is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended, or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under Union or national law;
- (b) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the person or entity is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;
- (c) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the person or entity is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the person or

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<sup>17</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)

<sup>18</sup> Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ 2018 L193, p. 1).

entity belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:

- (i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the implementation of the legal commitment;
- (ii) entering into agreement with other persons or entities with the aim of distorting competition;
- (iii) violating intellectual property rights;
- (iv) attempting to influence the decision-making of the authorising officer responsible during the award procedure;
- (v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;

(d) it has been established by a final judgment that the person or entity is guilty of any of the following:

- (i) fraud, within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council (44) and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995 (45);
- (ii) corruption, as defined in Article 4(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 or active corruption within the meaning of Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997 (46), or conduct referred to in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA (47), or corruption as defined in other applicable laws;
- (iii) conduct related to a criminal organisation as referred to in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA (48);
- (iv) money laundering or terrorist financing within the meaning of Article 1(3), (4) and (5) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council (49);
- (v) terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA (50), respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;
- (vi) child labour or other offences concerning trafficking in human beings as referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (51);

(e) the person or entity has shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations in the implementation of a legal commitment financed by the budget which has:

- (i) led to the early termination of a legal commitment;
- (ii) led to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties; or
- (iii) been discovered by an authorising officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors following checks, audits or investigations;

(f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person or entity has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 (52);

(g) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the person or entity has created an entity in a different jurisdiction with the intent to

circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business;

(h) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that an entity has been created with the intent referred to in point (g).

## **6.2. 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;
- (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 6.1.

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

## **7. SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **7.1. 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 2018/1046.

The documents that will be requested when assessing the financial capacity include (1) the profit and loss accounts and (2) the balance sheets. 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 or an international organisation;
- the EU contribution requested by the Applicant or Co-applicant is ≤ 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 or to international organisations.**

## **7.2. Operational capacity**

Applicants and Co-applicants must have the professional 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,
- a description of the partnership in the context of the proposed action to be provided under point 5.1.1.

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

## **8. AWARD CRITERIA**

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

<b>Award Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Threshold</b>
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>

### **Evaluation Step 1:**

- 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, i.e. will not go to Evaluation Step 2.

### **Evaluation Step 2:**

- Quality: applications will be assessed with regards to the appropriateness of their design and planned implementation, taking into account the envisaged activities, methodology, organisation of work and strategy for project management, evaluation and dissemination (20 points);
- 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 will 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 : the expected results are appropriate for the achievement of the objectives in the action; the dissemination strategy is clear, targeted and appropriate; the stream of benefits is likely to continue after the period of external support has ended; the project's results ensure a long-term impact on the target groups and/or general public (10 points).

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

## **9. 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, it 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.

## **10. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

### **10.1. 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 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 included in 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>19</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.

## **10.2. Maximum amount requested**

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

Consequently, part of the total eligible expenses must be financed from sources other than the EU grant (see section 10.1.c).

## **10.3. 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.

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<sup>19</sup> For further guidance on exchange rate please consult the Guide for Applicants.

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

### **11.1. 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 the Evaluation Committee on behalf of the authorising officer may correct obvious clerical errors in application documents upon confirmation of the intended correction by the applicant<sup>20</sup>.

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

### **11.2. 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>21</sup> if applicable
- Model Grant Agreement
- Guide for applicants

### **11.3. 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.

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

### **11.4. 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.

### **11.5. Contacts**

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

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<sup>20</sup> Article 151 of the Financial Regulation

<sup>21</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. Not applicable for public bodies and international organisations.

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.

## **12. PUBLICITY**

### **12.1. 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.

### **12.2. 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.

## **13. 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.

#### **14. 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.