

Development of ecosystem and next-generation capabilities for a secured European Critical Communication System in civil security

Horizon Europe

● CLOSING SOON

Code
HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-SSRI-04

Scope
International

Location
Europe

Curator
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FINANCIAL DETAILS

Support type
Non-Refundable

Maximum Funding Rate
100%

Budget
3M€

Eligible Project Value
3M€ - 3M€

DATES & DEADLINES

Publication Date
December 12, 2025

Opening Date
May 6, 2026

Deadline
November 5, 2026 at 05:00 PM GMT+1 (8 days left)

DESCRIPTION

Objectives

This call aims to support the development of an integrated ecosystem and next-generation capabilities for a secured European Critical Communication System (EUCCS) in civil security. The objective is to provide law enforcement, first responders, emergency services, and other critical sectors with robust, scalable, and interoperable communication systems that are secure and resilient, even in challenging or high-risk environments. The call is open to consortia including at least three first responder organisations as beneficiaries, with a focus on entities directly involved in field operations (such as paramedics, emergency medical technicians, police officers, and firefighters). Entities established in China or controlled by Chinese entities are not eligible. The call encourages participation from industry, research organisations, and

academia, fostering cooperation between demand and supply market actors to enhance the uptake and deployment of innovative security solutions across Europe.

Funding

The call provides a non-refundable grant (Innovation Action) with a total budget of €3 million. The funding rate is up to 70% of eligible costs for most participants, and up to 100% for non-profit legal entities. Only one grant is expected to be awarded under this topic, with the full amount allocated to the selected project. Eligible costs are reimbursed as a lump sum, simplifying financial management for beneficiaries.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Personnel Costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Other goods, works and services costs
- Subcontracting
- Indirect Costs

BONUSES & MAJORATIONS

- Active involvement of at least 3 first responders' organisations as beneficiaries
- Use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS for satellite-based data/services
- Inclusive and gender-sensitive approach in device and system design
- Support for standardisation processes

ELIGIBILITY

Application Mode

Consortium / Copromotion

Eligible Sectors

- ICT & Software
- Mobility & Transport
- Other

Company Typologies

- Micro
- SME
- Small Mid-Cap
- Mid-Cap
- Large

- Private non-profit entities
- Public entities

Action Types

- Development of secure and resilient communication systems for civil security
- Advancement of next-generation communication capabilities (e.g., post-quantum cryptography)
- Design and prototyping of ruggedized, mission-critical communication devices and applications
- Integration of wearable sensors, haptics, and augmented reality for situational awareness
- Ensuring interoperability with EUCCS and 3GPP Mission Critical Services (MCX)
- Support for standardisation processes relevant to critical communications
- Collaboration with first responders and practitioners for user-driven solutions
- Implementation of inclusive and gender-sensitive design approaches
- Innovation Action

EU PROGRAMME DETAILS

Call ID	Cluster
HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-SSRI-04	Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
Destination	Submission Mode
Strengthened Security Research and Innovation	single-stage
EU Contribution	Expected Projects
€3,000,000.00 per project	1
Funding Rate Rule	
Up to 70% of eligible costs for Innovation Actions (IA); up to 100% for non-profit legal entities	

OFFICIAL LINKS

Official Regulation

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-SSRI-04>

Grantavia page

<https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/development-of-ecosystem-and-next-generation-capabilities-for-a-secured-european-critical-communication-system-in-civil-security>

Schedule a meeting

<https://calendly.com/filipa-silva-epsa/reuniao>