



Horizon 2020 Secure Societies European Info Day and Brokerage Event

Brussels, 5-6 April 2016

Sheraton Hotel

Q&A session 05-Apr-2016

Q1 → Ethics review. In the presentation there is a non-exhaustive list of areas which are labelled as "ethics-sensitive" research areas (e.g. video surveillance, biometrics, etc.). What sort of actions have to be included in a proposal in order to respect potential ethical issues?

A → For general information, please refer to the guide for the applicant on how to complete the ethical self-assessment, that is, section-3 part-B of your proposal.

Please note that the above mentioned "ethics-sensitive" research areas are not meant to be avoided in the context of the research proposal (many of them are even essential in the security research), but are sensitive in the sense that they will need specific safeguards during the implementation of the project to comply with ethics rules and national and EU law. Please note furthermore that the compliance with the ethics rules is not part of the evaluation (determining the ranking), but carried out in a separate ethics screening process, the aim of which is to advise the consortium on the right measures to ensure that ethics rules and data protection legislation are respected.

Q2 → Confidentiality. How should the consortia deal with existing background needed for the development of the project?

A → If the project intends to use existing background, this should be clearly referenced and addressed in the proposal. Potential issues such as access to the background (for free, on basis of a license) should be clearly addressed. Permission by the EC is required in the specific case that the project intends to use classified background from a previous EU project. In any case, the proposal itself cannot disclose any classified information.

Q3 → Financial viability check. How and when is the financial capacity of an entity checked?

A →

As a reminder, the Financial Viability Check (FVC) is only required for coordinators validated as for-profit entities in EC projects exceeding 500,000 EUR. However, in principle a FVC can be requested by EC staff at any time. There is specific tool at the participant portal for any legal entity <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html> which allows entities to do a quick and confidential check. The FVC classification (from insufficient to very good) is based on a basic analysis of the entity's balance sheet considering basic indicators based on profit, turnover, capital, debts, etc.

Q4 → What is meant by the "minimum number" of practitioners required in some topics?





A → The requirements are always a “minimum number” and, in any case, the proposal has to demonstrate that all practitioners have a role as well as the mandate and means to carry out all relevant activities as outlined in the proposal.

Q5 → Can applicants re-use text from previous proposals?

A → In principle, applicants can re-use parts of a previous text provided that they are adapted to the new proposal. Please note that resubmissions are to be indicated in form A of the proposal (call, topic, previous proposal ID).

Q6 → Is there a list of national authorities dealing with ethics issues?

A → Regarding data protection issues, there is a “vademecum” on national competent authorities from DG JUST available at <http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/privacy/docs/wpdocs/others/2006-07-03-vademecum.doc>. You may consult your NCP for more updated information on those.

Q7 → How does the Commission ensure the quality and expertise of evaluators in the ethics review?

A → The ethics experts are selected from a list established by the Commission (DG RTD).

Q8 → Classification of documents and deliverables. Is there a guide at national or EU level for the classification of research projects?

A → See the guidelines for classification for H2020 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/secur/h2020-hi-guide-classif_en.pdf. Examples and orientation of what sort of research and what sort of activities should be classified can be found here.

Q9 → Gender balance. How can you accomplish or demonstrate the gender balance in an organisation or in a research team?

A → All beneficiaries are encouraged - within the realms of possibility – to respect a gender balance of 50% among the key personnel involved in the implementation of the action, as indicated in the proposal. Note that the gender balance (at a consortium level) can be taken into account into the final ranking of the proposal if all higher level criteria failed to differentiate two proposals.

Please note also the difference between "gender balance" (referring to the male/female ratio of key personnel involved in the implementation of the action) and "gender issue" (gender as important topic or parameter in the research itself).

Q10 → Advisory Board. Is the inclusion of an Advisory Board necessary? Can you make payments to the experts taking part in the Advisory Board?

A → It is not compulsory to have an Advisory Board in the proposal. Their inclusion depends on the research, the activities carried out in the project and the real added value of having external





advice. If the expertise needed is fully covered by the members of the consortia (i.e., practitioners), then external advice may not be necessary.

Regarding payments to the advisory board, reimbursements for travel and accommodation can definitely be budgeted. Work allowances to facilitate an active contribution to the project can in principle be declared under subcontracting up to a reasonable limit.

Q11 → Switzerland: Can Swiss partners participate in a research project? Are they eligible for funding?

A → In SC7 Secure Societies, Switzerland is neither considered an associated country nor listed among the countries receiving funding by default. As a consequence, the EU only funds entities from Switzerland if they are deemed essential to the action. In practice, Swiss entities can apply for equivalent national funding mitigating thus the risk of a lack of resources. Please note, however, that Swiss entities do not contribute to the minimum number of entities required in the action (i.e. 1 [3] entity[ies] from 1 [3] member state[s] or associated country[ies] for a CSA [IA/RIA]).

Q12 → What is a “practitioner”?

A → The definition of practitioner is outlined in the work-programme: "A practitioner is someone who is qualified or registered to practice a particular occupation, profession in the field of security or civil protection". REA will check if the entity involved is really a valid practitioner based on the self-description of the applicant.

Q13 → To what extent can the profiles and activities of entities from different countries be similar?

A → The choice of consortium should be derived from the project needs. Having two partners with similar profiles is defensible if they have clearly distinct roles in the project (e.g. involvement in different pilots). This has to be convincingly explained and justified in the proposal.

Q14 → Practitioners and LEA. Is a LEA a potential practitioner?

A → For many topics LEAs (or parts of their organisations) would fit as "practitioners", but this must be supported by the topic description and an absolute answer cannot be given here. Please note also that the competences and mandates of a given LEA might vary from one country to another.

Q&A session 06-Apr-2016

BES - Questions

Q1 → Coordination with the EDA. What does it mean?

A → Activities or research previously carried out by EDA projects should not be duplicated.

The EC will coordinate with the EDA in order to check and detect potential duplications.

On the other hand, when a proposal claims coordination with a given EDA project, it should include a written (formal) commitment from the consortium of the EDA project. The EDA project





has to specify the information, data or technology that will be provided to the Security-H2020 project. Declarations of intent are not valid or useful for the evaluation of the proposal.

DRS- Questions

Q1 → DRS-01 Impact. The topic shows a wide range of systems to cover. Is it thus necessary to cover all the systems/technologies in a single proposal?

A → Applicants should try to include only the technologies and developments that are appropriate and required in the context of their proposal and it is not necessary to include all the technologies named in the topic. Applicants must justify the selection that has been made.

Q2 → DRS-01 “Close to market”. What are the priority customers? (e.g. thousands of local stakeholders, European emergency response capacity , support to EU humanitarian actions?)

A → The topic is meant to support response planning and be used by decision-makers and first responders who represent the targeted market.

DS - Questions

Q1 → Role of cyber-insurance in DS-04. Is the involvement of insurance companies in the consortium critical?

A → The call text neither encourages nor precludes proposers to involve insurance companies in the consortium. It is up to proposers to decide to include insurance companies in the consortium. Indeed, it would likely be an added value, but it is not compulsory.

FCT-Questions

Q1 → International partners. What are the conditions of participation?

A → International cooperation is encouraged. This could be done either by exchange of information and good practices (e.g. in communication activities) but also by direct participation in the consortium. Please note that for entities located in countries not automatically receiving EU funding evaluators will need to decide if the partner is essential for the purpose of the project and thus may get EU funding. However, in many cases co-funding schemes are in place between the EU and those countries mitigating thus the risk of a possible negative decision on EU funding.

Further information can be found under: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm

Q2 → FCT-07: Are corporate or political crimes concerning corruption receivable and part of the topic scope?

A → Yes, these crimes can indeed be addressed when answering to the topic.

Q3 → FCT-07 – subtopic 3: Is investigation restricted to the phase after a criminal event or can it include the intelligence phase?

A → Both phases can be included; the focus should be put on the most critical aspects in the process.

