HORIZON EUROPE AND CLUSTER 3 NOVELTIES

eNewsletter
SEPTEMBER 2023

FUNDING
INFORMATION

NEWS AND
EVENTS

RELEVANT
INITIATIVES

SUCCESS STORIES
AND MORE

CONTENT:

CLUSTER 3 INFO DAY AND BROKERAGE EVENT

Between 27th – 28th June 2023, SEREN5 hosted the HORIZON EUROPE CLUSTER 3 INFO DAY AND BROKERGE EVENT. The event was held in Brussels, in close collaboration with the European Commission's Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs and the European Research Executive Agency. Attendees to the event came from across Europe and numbered more than 1198 with almost 50% attending in person. Stakeholder visitors represented; 260 SME's, 102 Industry, 251 Universities, 159 Research and development institution, 69 agencies, 176 authorities, 150 others.

During the first day of the event, general information on Cluster 3 in Horizon Europe and the role of the Justice and Home Affairs was presented by Europol, EU-LISA and Frontex. The agenda for the second day included several interesting stakeholder training sessions, a dynamic pitch presentation session and an opportunity for delegates to discuss their project idea with an experienced National Contact Point (NCP).

Stakeholder Training

Stakeholder training included

- SEREN5 services on offer to stakeholders to assist and support their participation in Horizon Europe, presented by Flavia La Colla, APRE (SEREN5 Coordinator).
- Guidance on how to better prepare for writing a proposal, and key points to consider when constructing a consortium, presented by Zale Johnson (Innovate UK)
- Services to support the participation of applicants from Widening Countries was presented by,WIDERA.NET Project Brunello, APRE (WIDERA.NET)

For the links to individual presentation please go to the links here: SEREN5 services, Guidance on proposal preparation, WIDERA.NET Project, Consortium building

Pitch Presentations

After lunch, Mark Meilak hosted a pitch presentation session, the aim of which was to offer researchers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders an opportunity to proactively look for a consortium to join or consortium partners, for their project idea. This was a fast and furious session with each organisation only having a duration of 3 minutes to deliver their message through a set of PowerPoint slides. However, it proved to be a successful and fruitful exercise which contributed to the event having 94 published cooperation opportunities.

Project Idea Check

In addition to the structured 2-day agenda, throughout the event there was an opportunity for stakeholders to benefit from a brand new initiative from SEREN5 for Cluster 3 stakeholders. the "Project Idea Check" service. This service is free of charge and aims, through participating National Contact Points (NCP's), to provide support to those intending to submit an application for funding for Cluster 3 call topics, at the earliest stage of their proposal preparation. Several stakeholders have already taken up the offer of this service and as such greatly benefitted from the impartial and independent advice received. Thanks to Yotam Beit-Yannai from SEREN5 who has organised more than 15 in person meetings during Info day 2023.

To see all of the SEREN5 pitch presentations click here

- Info Day 1 link : General Info CL 3
- SEREN5 – Pitch presentation: DOWNLOAD
- Project idea check assistance: still running
- SEREN5 – Training for stakeholders: SEREN5 services , Guidance on proposal preparation, WIDERA.NET Project, Consortium building

Some photos from Cluster 3 Information Day and Brokerage Event you can see here:

DAY 1 – 27.6.2023 - Cluster 3 Information Day

Meetings with SEREN5 team

DAY 2 – 28.6.2023 - SEREN5 Training for stakeholders and Brokerage Event including Pitch presentation.

Scheduled meetings at the event

Horizon Europe Cluster 3 Info-day and Brokerage Event

Thanks to all active participants!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CLUSTER 3 STAKEHOLDERS

In this section you will find some useful information …….. CHECK IT OUT!

OPEN CALLS IN CLUSTER 3 – CIVIL SECURITY FOR SOCIETY

The European Commission opened the Cluster 3 Calls on 29th of June 2023. To see 2023-2024 calls go to the Funding & tender opportunities portal, where you can find new opportunities to develop your knowledge, technologies and solutions in the security field. Remember the deadline for your **submission is 23rd November 2023.**

Do not forget to be in touch with consortium partners and stakeholders to prepare a valuable proposal!

PROPOSAL WRITING – I NEED SOME ADVICE!

There are so many things to consider when writing your Horizon Europe project proposal. However, although not an exhaustive list, below you will find some of the most important points to consider. Good Luck!

Writing a proposal is a big task so before you start, make sure that you:
… have plenty of time
… keep in mind the deadline for the submission of your proposal
… understand the rules of participation & Annexes
… have a EU Login Account and a PIC
… are familiar with the funding framework
…are eligible for funding
… know the legal, administrative and financial requirements
… are familiar with the EU Commission's Funding and Tenders Portal
… are familiar with all the relevant HE Guidance and Manuals
… know the support available including the Research Enquiry Service

Is the call topic right for you and your organisation
- **Don't go it alone**

Have you discussed the work with those within your organisation?
- **Teamwork Essential**

Have you got the support you need?
- **It's not just about the funding**

What are the benefits for your organisation to participate?
- **Be ready for Success**

Will the work contribute to your organisation's business strategy?

- **Stay on Track**

Will the work build on your organisations R&I strategy

- **Keep it Real**

Is the work within your area of expertise?

- **For the Duration**

Has your organisation the capabilities/resources to actively participate?

One person cannot write the proposal

Proposal writing should be a shared undertaking, with contributions coming from all consortium partners. The proposal should be a written representation of the physical collaborative approach to the call topic, and it should describe how the call topic challenges will be addressed via agreed concepts from your diverse consortium. Including all consortium partners from the start will help to solidify project partnerships prior to the start of the project and ensure good working relationships throughout the duration of the project.

Regular consortium meetings should include updates on how the proposal is developing

All consortium partners should be regularly updated on how the proposal writing is progressing. It is suggested that the proposal be a standing agenda item, as this will allow for continual clarity of the content, an opportunity for frequent peer review and initiate productive discussions to take place when and where relevant. All of which will contribute to the success of the proposal and consequently being awarded funding.

One person should be the overall 'owner' of the proposal

The proposal should be 'owned' by a single individual of the consortium, to ensure that written contributions from multiple project partners, 'knit together' seamlessly. The proposal 'owner' should have good command of the English language and if possible, have prior project writing skills.

The EU Commission is your customer

Be compliant. A project proposal should be 'tailored' specifically towards addressing the challenges laid down by the EU Commission in the specific call topic of choice. The expected outcomes and scope of the call topic is, 'set in stone' and any attempt to adapt or adjust the call topic to 'fit' an idea should not be embarked upon, as this will not only weaken the proposal but will greatly reduce the chance of success.

The proposal should read more like a business case rather than a research paper

Remember that your proposal will be competing against other proposals. Therefore, your proposal should be written in a way that convinces the evaluators of the merits of what you intend to do, why you are doing it, how you intend to do it, and the qualities of the project deliverables/outcome. Furthermore, you need to ensure that your business case states how your project will continue to make 'impact' or provide 'value' beyond the duration of the project itself.

The proposal should tell a story and take the evaluator on a journey of discovery

The proposal should capture the attention of the evaluator right from the beginning. It should have a simple and logical structure i.e., beginning, a middle and an end and follow proposal template. The proposal should take the evaluator on a journey of discovery, by clearly emphasising what 'beyond state of the art' device, methodology and/or process the project will deliver. Additionally, it should highlight what the impact/s will be and what approach will be used to achieve the project objectives.

Be generous with your visuals

A picture paints a thousand words....so make best use of diagrams, charts and tables etc. Pictures and other colourful visuals are easier to process and recall, compared to the written word. Therefore, if you make your proposal more impactful to the evaluator then they are more likely to remember the content compared to those project proposals that do not use visuals. Often visuals can assist in providing a better understanding to something that may be otherwise complicated. For example, a process can be better illustrated using a flowchart and complicated data sets are better followed and understood if placed within a table.

Get a memorable project acronym and use it often within your proposal text

Your acronym should be used in the same way as brand advertising, in other words your acronym should be the identity of your project and as such be memorable, bold and meaningful. For example, I-SEAMORE (maritime surveillance), MORESPEED (rapid mobile response in disaster events) and I-LEAD (Enabling Law Enforcement to lead the way if finding solutions to operational challenges). This will ensure that not only your project will be remembered, but it will also be associated with the work you will be undertaking.

Your project acronym should be the first word of your project proposal and the first word of each of the evaluated sections, (1. Excellence, 2. Impact and 3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation) followed by a positive modal verb such as 'will', 'can' and 'shall'. This will reassure the evaluator, that you have confidence in your project in attaining a positive and successful outcome.

Ask the advice of your National Contact Point (NCP)

Remember, your NCP is there to assist and advise whenever you need it so please do get in touch if you need further information and guidance, not just about proposal writing but all aspects of Horizon Europe. The service is free and impartial, so what have you got to lose? To find out who is your country's NCP go to: Funding & tenders (europa.eu). If you do not have an NCP then go to the contact page at the SEREN5 website and any member of the SEREN5 team will be able to help.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LUMP SUM IN SECURITY PROPOSALS?

Where I can find some "very fresh" information about Lump sum?

Horizon Europe and mainly in CL3 you can find several topics which uses lump sum funding to reduce administration and financial errors and simplify the processes.
The European Commission has published two short videos that explain how the lump sum financing in the Horizon Europe program works. The videos were created primarily for project evaluators, however, they are also useful for applicants who are preparing proposals. For more information see next links:
https://www.horizontevropa.cz/cs/e-learning/yiifelearning/84/how-to-evaluate-lump-sum-proposals...
https://www.horizontevropa.cz/cs/e-learning/yiifelearning/85/how-to-evaluate-lump-sum-proposals...
For additional documents and links, please check dedicated lump sum page:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon/lump-sum

THE 'PROJECT IDEA CHECK' SERVICES - AN IMPORTANT SERVICE FROM YOUR NCP

The 'Project Idea Check' service is available from participating Cluster 3 NCP's and is on offer for applicants who plan to submit a project for a call topic within the Horizon Europe Cluster 3 Work Programme. This service will provide a preliminary evaluation of a project idea, with the goal of the service, to increase the chance of success of the stakeholder in obtaining funding.

It is anticipated that the preliminary assessment will take place in the virtual space via a 45-minute Video Conference (VC) meeting. During the meeting constructive feedback will be provided by the NCP and where relevant recommendations will be offered to the proposer.

The 'Project Idea Check' service has been initiated through the Horizon Europe SEREN5 project and over the coming months more work will be undertaken to promote and market the service and enlist additional NCP's.

This service is for all! For newcomers, it may be the first time of encountering programme terminology and participation challenges. However, it is envisaged that applicants will greatly benefit from guidance and advice from the NCP, who will assist the applicant to better understand the challenges within the call topic and discuss the best approaches to take to address the challenges. Other areas that can be covered during the meeting

are TRL's and the security appraisal process.

For seasoned participants, they may have a better vision of their proposal however, they may benefit from highlighting specific areas of strength and weakness in their idea, including desired partners, suitable calls, structuring the proposal, next steps, and more. For more information on the 'Project Idea Check' service, please do not hesitate to contact SEREN5 to identify a participating NCP and/or the task leader for this service, YOTAM BEIT-YANNAI from ISERD.

SEREN5 will continuously offer this service remotely and will have it as an on-site service for participants in major cluster 3 events such as SMI2G, EU info days and brokerage events. For more information you can check also SEREN5 web page and receive feedback on your ideas from NCPs – ideas check service online.

BUILDING A CONSORTIUM? - HERE ARE SOME TIPS!

HERE YOU CAN FIND SOME GOOD TIPS HOW PREPARING TO BUILD YOUR CONSORTIUM AS PARTNER:

- Partners should contribute to making a: Diverse, Balanced and Proactive Team!

- There is no hard and fast rule for the number of partners

- There is not a hard and fast rule for the choice of countries however, a good geographical spread is advised

- Include a widening country

- Be able to justify your choice of partners – are they the right person for the task?

- Each partner should have a clear and defined purpose - This should be obvious to the evaluator

- Not all partners will have equal roles, i.e. the same number of person months

- Not all partners will start their activities at the same time although all need to be kept up to date

- It is a good idea to have an 'advisory group' that includes end users and experts

- The consortium should work as a community and partners should be complementary to each other

- The right people for the right tasks – not the usual suspects and not just your BESTIES!

WHICH NEWS AND EVENT IS RELEVANT?

HORIZON IMPLEMENTATION DAYS

The European Commission has launched a series of three „Implementation Days" that will be held in October. You can visit them:

5th October
Horizon Implementation Day: Finding opportunities and submitting a proposal in Horizon Europe

17th October
Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Agreement Preparation in Horizon Europe

24th October
Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Management in Horizon Europe

SRE 2023 – BRUSSELS 24 -25 OCTOBER 2023

The Security Research Event 2023 (SRE2023) will be held between 24th – 25th October at the **Square Brussels Convention Centre** in Brussels and is organised by the European Commission, supported by the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and Sweden. The SRE 2023 will consist of a Conference and an Exhibition.
Industry, policy-makers, knowledge institutions, and practitioners will come together to discuss the state of play for European Security Research and Innovation, and how best to tackle emerging security issues using EU-funded research. This year's event will focus on challenges stemming from global megatrends, which are shifting the ground for security in the EU. The main themes are embraced by the event's title: "Societal transformations, climate change and digitalisation – a new paradigm of Security Research?"

THEMATIC PANELS OF INTEREST:

Panel 1 – Cascading effects of crises: a new challenge for security research or just more of old troubles?
Panel 2 – Participative resilience: citizens as owners of their own security and as contributors to EU societal resilience.
Panel 3 – Natural, accidental and intentional disasters of the future: are we prepared?
Panel 4 – Digitalisation of society: new threats, new opportunities, new responses?
Panel 5 – Foreseeing risks, developing EU capabilities: can we do more?

Have a good chance to visit this two days of Conferences with thematic sessions at [Square Brussels Convention Centre](#).

SUCCESS STORIES IN CIVIL SECURITY

I-LEAD – "INNOVATION – LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S DIALOGUE"

I-LEAD was a 5-year, EU Commission H2020 project that concluded in February 2023. The focus of the project was to work closely and collaboratively with Law Enforcement Officers from across Europe, in order to identify where innovation and research was able to address key operational challenges. In order to achieve this objective, I-LEAD established 5 Practitioner Groups (PG's) these being, Front Line Policing, Cross Border Crime, Cybercrime, Crime and Forensics.

During the course of the project 25 Workshops took place (5 thematic workshops for each PG) in which operational Police Officers from across Europe, were invited to work as a community and put forward their priorities and requirements for the future. These included: technology in vehicles, public order, financial investigation, environmental crime and people trafficking.

One of the main success stories of I-LEAD is that the work undertaken within the project, now continues through the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Service (ENLETS) network, ensuring a post-project legacy for years to come. One of the activities founded within I-LEAD, and to be continued via ENLETS, is the robust methodology that assists Law Enforcement to define their needs and priorities. Furthermore, the subsequent process of scanning of the research and technology landscape, for 'fit for purpose' solutions also continue.

Another success to originate from I-LEAD is the messenger service provision for Law Enforcement, which has also been integrated into ENLETS. This service is frequently tested across borders between Member States and provides a connection between all Technology Interest Groups (TIG's), ENLETS members and other personnel across the EU on a daily basis. This connectivity ensures a more joined up approach to fighting crime through the sharing of 'good practice'. Additionally, the messenger service ensures that collaborations, connections and networks across Law Enforcement, made during the I-LEAD project remains, and continues to thrive.

Another achievement of the I-LEAD project is the Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) opportunity; a continuation of the project activities and an exploitation objective that successfully defined a solution for Law Enforcement for the remote stopping of vehicles. Through the I-LEAD's work which aimed to support those officers working in the Public Order domain across the EU, the ENLETS Public Order Technology Interest Group (PO TIG) has now been established. This group exchanges information and ideas and monitors innovative solutions that can improve police abilities to sustain security during mass events and crisis situations. The aim of the PO TIG is to help consolidate understanding of multiple approaches and technologies used across the European Union to keep public spaces secure and citizens safe. To read more about the PO TIG click here.

Other areas that the I-LEAD project initiated and where work continues through ENLETS, is the Crime as a Service (CaaS), this has now been integrated into the Financial Investigations TIG, which is combating fraudulent schemes. The Environmental Practitioner Group set up during I-LEAD remains and continue to meet post project, and presently is working as community across the EU to tackle malicious trading in oil.

ENLETS has now integrated a great deal of the work initiated by the I-LEAD project and continues to build networks such as front-line policing and crime and public protection. It is an agile and accessible network that connects all EU countries as well EU projects and continues to foster the results of those projects. To find out more and support this work please go to ENLETS website.

SEREN5 would like to thank Patrick Padding, Core Group Leader, ENLETS EU and I-LEAD Project Lead, and Rashel Talukder, Managing Director of the Polish Platform for Homeland Security for their valuable contribution to this article.

SURVEY ON THE BARRIERS FOR SAFE PARTICIPATION OF NEWCOMERS IN SECURITY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Do you want to participate in the Horizon Europe Security research programme?

Please take a few minutes to fill out our survey. We focus on barriers to your participation and the specific support you need from us.

The survey is organized by the SEREN5 network of national contact points. It is anonymous.

For more information visit: **https://www.seren-project.eu/?p=250**

Survey link: **https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/SEREN5-WideningApplicantsBarriersAndNeeds**

YOUR VOICE MATTERS – IMPROVING SERVICES FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

We in the SEREN5 project are keen to put customers at the heart of our work and strive to improve the customer journey and experience. The participation of security stakeholders in our project activities is essential and of great importance to us, as it will contribute to ensuring an enhancement of our services including the customer journey and experience.

In light of this objective, SEREN5 has created a new survey dedicated to giving Cluster 3 stakeholders a 'voice' so you can tell us your specific needs and requirements.
All newcomers and experience cluster 3 stakeholders are invited to complete the survey including officially nominated Cluster 3 NCP's.

It is anticipated that the survey will take around 10 minutes to complete and SEREN5 thanks you in advance for your participation.
You can find the survey [here](#)

Once again SEREN5 would like to thank you in advance
Make your voice heard!

DO I KNOW WHICH WEB PAGE IS STILL USEFUL?

Visit **SEREN5** website and **Funding and Tenders Portal** to get relevant information.

Get involved in European Research and **Horizon Europe.**

Follow us and get in touch with news in Cluster 3 and SEREN5 activities!
For more information: **seren5@apre.it**

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