

HORIZON EUROPE AND CLUSTER 3 NOVELTIES



eNewsletter
FEBRUARY 2025



FUNDING
INFORMATION



NEWS AND
EVENTS



RELEVANT
INITIATIVES



SUCCESS STORIES
AND MORE



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CONTENT:

- WHAT IS VERY USEFUL FROM FUNDING INFORMATION?
- WHICH NEWS AND EVENTS ARE ONGOING OR RELEVANT?
- SUCCESS STORIES OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS
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What APRE can advise:

You are sincerely welcome to read our first news of 2025 and we look forward to sharing our very important activities for Cluster 3 during the coming spring period.

This year 2025 will be again the time for the new Work Programme of CL3 for 2025 including new calls to be published soon during spring time. As SEREN5 we always try to effectively approach recommendations from stakeholders for calls in advance to review previous areas.

With the forthcoming events coming in few months (namely SMI2G 2025 and the official Cluster 3 Info Day) we hope to support applicants and stakeholders in applying to the 2025 Cluster 3 Calls.

Stay updated to do not miss all the SEREN5 services we can provide for you!

SEREN5 coordinator, APRE
Flavia La Colla, lacolla@apre.it



WHAT IS VERY USEFUL TO KNOW FROM FUNDING INFORMATION?

These are some useful information and material to support you in preparation of your proposals.

THE CALLS FOR PROPOSALS UNDER HORIZON EUROPE - CLUSTER 3 ACCORDING SUBMISSION FIGURES – CL3 SUBMISSION RESULTS

The 2024 Horizon Europe Security Research call for proposals has received an overwhelming [response, with 433 proposals](#) submitted, surpassing the 247 proposals from the previous year in five CL 3 calls and 158 applications in the call HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01 as well.

Call HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01 has closed on the 20 November 2024 - 41.70 million € 126 proposals have been submitted. The breakdown per topic is:

1. HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-01: 11 proposals
2. HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-02: 23 proposals
3. HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-03: 8 proposals
4. HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-04: 20 proposals
5. HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-05: 26 proposals
6. HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-06: 23 proposals
7. HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-07: 4 proposals
8. HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-08: 11 proposals

Call HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01 has closed on the 20 November 2024 - 29 million € 52 proposals have been submitted. The breakdown per topic is:

1. HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01-01: 9 proposals
2. HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01-02: 19 proposals
3. HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01-03: 8 proposals
4. HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01-04: 3 proposals
5. HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01-05: 13 proposals

Call HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01 has closed on the 20 November 2024 - 30 million € 139 proposals have been submitted. The breakdown per topic is:

1. HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-01: 22 proposals
2. HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-02: 58 proposals
3. HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-03: 21 proposals
4. HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-04: 27 proposals
5. HORIZON-CL3-2024-DRS-01-05: 11 proposals

Call HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01 has closed on the 20 November 2024, 60.40 million € 152 proposals have been submitted.

1. HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-01(HORIZON-IA),HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-02(HORIZON-RIA) : 103 proposal
2. HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-01(HORIZON-IA), HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01-02(HORIZON-RIA):49 proposals

Call HORIZON-CL3-2024-INFRA-01 has closed on the 20 November 2024 - 16 million € 79 proposals have been submitted. The breakdown per topic is:

1. HORIZON-CL3-2024-INFRA-01-01: 23 proposals
2. HORIZON-CL3-2024-INFRA-01-02: 13 proposals
3. HORIZON-CL3-2024-INFRA-01-03: 43 proposals

Call HORIZON-CL3-2024-SSRI-01 has closed on the 20 November 2024 - 16.50 million € 37 proposals have been submitted. The breakdown per topic is:

1. HORIZON-CL3-2024-SSRI-01-01: 9 proposals
2. HORIZON-CL3-2024-SSRI-01-02: 28 proposals

As from these numbers that is evident that **585** proposals were submitted and if we took into the account approx. 9 partners big consortia, it should be **more than 5 265 applicants** were included in the 2024 calls as applicants. Great work for everybody to participate in security research of CL3 Horizon Europe solutions.

Evaluation results are expected to be communicated in **mid-April 2025**.

OPEN SCIENCE IN HORIZON EUROPE

Open science is an approach based on open cooperative work and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible in the process, including active engagement of society and mandatory in all calls is:

- Open access to publications; RDM in line with the FAIR principles including data management plans; open access to research data unless exceptions apply ('as open as possible as closed as necessary'); access and/or information to research outputs and tools/instruments for validating conclusions of scientific publications and validating/re-using data.
- Additional obligations specific to certain work programme topics.

Do not missed the instruction in video: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/videos/support/EiJ8RaD3WBw> and your research organisations should also to follow

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en the nature web page to check what are the important requirements for scientific publications.

INNOVATION UPTAKE OF RESEARCH RESULTS

“Innovation uptake of research results” - S online Training for Cluster 3 NCPs

[SEREN5](#) with specifically PRAXI/FORTH, APRE and hub.brussels partners organised on-line the training on 30th of January 2025 with the aim to give to NCPs all the useful information to support applicants in boosting the security research in the field of the innovation uptake.

The training targeted CL3 NCPs so as stakeholders with aim to support specific knowledge of innovation uptake and security research to participate in the next 2025 calls for project proposals. The learning outcomes and the content of the training delivered by trainers Michele Dubbini (European IP Helpdesk) and Barbara Andreani (hub.brussels) were mainly related to the road to Impact: Intellectual property management in Horizon Europe projects and to bring security research results to the market: How cluster 3 NCPs can contribute to make it happen.

PRAXI/FORTH with the support of APRE, prepared the organisation of trainings tailored on every relevant aspects for Cluster 3 NCPs for pre -selected topics based on the needs of Cluster 3 NCPs.

The 1st on-site training for Cluster 3 NCPs was organised on 22nd February 2023. The topic was “How to perform project-idea check and pre-proposal check”. The 2nd on-site training was organised on 4th April 2024. The topic was “Social Sciences and Humanities in the Cluster 3 proposals” and it was in collaboration with Net4SocietyHE (the network of Cluster 2 NCPs).

The training about the **“Innovation uptake of research results”** for NCPs has seen the participation of 27 Cluster 3 National Contact Points from different countries.

The next SEREN5 online training for NCPs will be about the [European Cybersecurity Competence Centre](#) (ECCC) and will be organised in cooperation with the Idealist project on Thursday 13th February, starting at 10:00 CET . The agenda and the registration link will be shared soon with the officially nominated NCPs.

SEREN5 RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PREPARATION OF 2025 CLUSTER 3 CALLS

Some useful facts from SEREN5 Services for stakeholders

The wide variety of CL3 stakeholders (researchers, practitioners, law enforcement agencies etc.) can benefit from different kinds of activities developed by SEREN5 in order to support them in the process of submitting proposals, from the very early stages of the project idea creation. [SEREN5](#) can also concretely support applicants in the process of developing their consortia, thanks to the organization of Brokerage events and Pitch sessions, and the development of the SeReMa partner search tool (see below). In order to improve the competences and skills of the stakeholders, SEREN5 periodically organizes specific trainings usually in conjunction with other major security events (such as the CL3 Infodays or the SRE). The trainings for stakeholders aim to touch upon different types of topics: horizontal issues (such as gender, IPR, ethics, etc.) or specific aspects of the proposal preparation process or the development of consortia. Finally, another key service for stakeholders is the “Project Idea Check”: a service conceived to support applicants from the very early stage of the proposal preparation (the project idea development). Through a dedicated form designed for CL3 proposers, they will be able to lay the foundations of their proposal, address the call topic text and recognise the strengths and weaknesses of their project idea. A complete form will be a pre-condition to a 1:1 private consultation meeting with an experienced NCP, giving advise based on their experience and knowledge.

SEREN5 would like to present a short reminder from NCP Elísabet María Andrésdóttir (RANNIS, Iceland):

Reminder: Proposal Preparation for Cluster 3 Civil Security for Society Work Programme 2025

WHY YOU SHOULD PAY ATTENTION:

1. **New Work Programme:** Stay updated with the new work programme coming out this summer. New Work Programmes will be published [here](#) by the EU
2. **SEREN5 Network:** Access high-quality support and services to enhance your proposal. Information available on the [SEREN5](#) website.
3. **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with key actors in the security research and innovation area. Sign up for the [SeReMa](#) database and participate in events organized by the network.
4. **Capacity Building:** Benefit from trainings, meetings, and forums organized by SEREN5. Information will be published on the [SEREN5](#) website and social media.
5. **Visibility Increase:** Increase the visibility of your project through SEREN5's resources.
6. **Policy Feedback:** Receive valuable policy feedback to strengthen your proposal. Engage with NCPs, participate in events, utilise targeted services offered by the network.
7. **Widening Participation:** Opportunities to collaborate with partners from widening countries. For more information [NCP_WIDERA.NET](#).
8. **Build Competence:** Enroll in online courses on the [NCP Virtual Campus](#). Open to everyone, but sign-up is required for access.

Be part of a supportive community dedicated to civil security. Don't miss out on these valuable resources and support! Start preparing now and make your proposal stand out.

CERIS REPORT - "BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE CIVIL SECURITY DOMAIN BASED ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY"

Report of the CERIS Expert Group "Building resilience in the civil security domain based on research and technology"

The CERIS experts have jointly prepared this first CERIS report, which provides, on selected key themes, an overview of the security challenges the EU is facing, the current trends and needs in this area and how research and innovation can support the EU policy response, including through non-binding recommendations. [November 2024 CERIS report](#) describes how research and innovation can contribute to strengthening the EU's resilience in the civil security domain. DG HOME established the Community for European Research and Innovation for Security –CERIS, as a follow-up to the Community of Users. CERIS brings together researchers, academia, policy makers, practitioners, industry, and civil society on security relevant topics. Besides this work-strand, CERIS has also meant the creation of the CERIS Expert Group, consisting of 65 selected experts from across Europe.

First CERIS report, titled "*Building resilience in the civil security domain based on research and technology*" builds on the 20 [CERIS workshops and seminars organised every year](#), with an average of 100 participants per event. The outcome of discussions of CERIS workshops and seminars has been gathered and edited into one report. The report covers 10 selected topics, illustrating for instance how EU-funded security research results help to combat child sexual abuse online, to deal with disinformation, fake news and hate speech, to enhance disaster resilience, to facilitate the travel of persons at border crossing points or how to use artificial intelligence for security purposes.

[The 2024 last CERIS](#) report is intended to be the first in a series that will regularly provide valuable input, from research to policy, to inform policy design and implementation and to promote the uptake of innovative solutions stemming from research projects in the area of civil security. In the long term, it will contribute to reinforcing the EU's resilience.

SWITZERLAND IS BACK

EU and Switzerland successfully conclude negotiations on Horizon Europe and Euratom

[The European Commission](#) has fully activated the transitional arrangement as of 1 January 2025, which enables Swiss entities to participate in almost all calls for proposals of Horizon Europe and the Euratom programme as **beneficiaries**, from the **2025 programme year onwards**. This means that they can submit project proposals in the role of **coordinator**. Switzerland's participation in calls for proposals in areas considered strategic by the EU (including quantum and space) will be the subject of technical discussions with the European Commission.

Under the transitional arrangement, Swiss entities now also have the opportunity to participate as beneficiaries in calls for proposals of the **Digital Europe Programme**, from the 2025 programme year onwards. This means that they can submit their project applications in the role of coordinator. Specific Objectives 3 (Cybersecurity) and 6 (Semiconductors) are exceptions to this; they are only accessible to EU member states and, to a limited extent, to countries in the European Economic Area (EEA). For questions about the Digital Europe Programme: digital europa@sbfi.admin.ch.

There is no implications on running applications or projects. The latest news and information can be found at the SERI dedicated [page](#) and on our [Euresearch website](#) and in our [factsheet](#).

Several virtual events start to be organized from January such as –“Expand your Horizon: New possibilities for Swiss organisations to access Horizon Europe”, and will go on February to support Swiss participation in HE by Euresearch team. Many thanks for these opportunities.

Welcome back: **Nicole Wyss** - National Contact Point Civil Security for Society (**Cluster 3**) and Health (**Cluster 1**), nicole.wyss@euresearch.ch, Euresearch Network Office

Which news and events are ongoing or relevant?

SEREN5 CONSORTIUM MEETING ONLINE



On 17th of December 2024, APRE organised Consortium meeting as part of the management of the [project SEREN5](#). This online session revised the all WPs including tasks, activities done up till now and proposed the next period solutions and important recommendations to all partners.

Work together and in any cases find a way how to improve and still make it better, is the challenge for the next period during 2025.

SMI2G BROKERAGE 2025



The Security Mission & Information Group (SMI2G) event is traditionally held every year in high level organisation, high participation and with big success.

This year the largest networking event **SMI2G** will be held on May 6.-7.5.2024 in the Paris Conseil Régional d'Île-de-France (Paris / St-Ouen-sur-Seine), Paris.

[SMI2G event](#) will be again organized by As in previous years, the Security Mission Information & Innovation Group (SMI2G) is organising a two-day event in Paris to discuss on the upcoming 2025 Cluster 3 Secure research societies calls of Horizon Europe. This brokerage event will provide a unique networking platform to stimulate innovative ideas and facilitate the creation of consortia.

The SMI2G brokerage event is organised by: The EARTO Working Group Security and Defence research, the SEREN5 network, EOS, IMG-S, CMINE and is supported by the Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche and ENLET. Like previous years, this edition of the SMI2G event is again free of charge thanks to our sponsors.

Every year, SMI2G hosts top-level keynote speakers, expert panel discussions as well as ground-breaking pitch sessions related to the respective calls. As a result, the event offers participants significant networking opportunities, supporting consortium building efforts and the sharing of valuable information concerning the Horizon Europe Security Calls.

All security topics will be represented. Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to expand your network and find partners for your proposals, and already save the dates! The SMI2G brokerage event gathers European-wide innovators and practitioners who are looking for further consortium partners by presenting game-changing ideas and novel technologies addressing the challenges of the Horizon Europe's Civil Security for Society 2025 Work Programme.

More information about the program and the submission of pitches will follow shortly.

[SEREN5](#) is one of the organizers and we will participate again with selected activities. **Registration is now open** and you can register here - <https://www.cmine.eu/events/165978>

EDF INFO DAYS 2025

[European Defence Fund Info Days](#) event is aimed at potential applicants from public and private entities established in the EU Member States and Norway. Further information on eligibility for EDF funding is provided [here](#).

The event will take place on **2 - 3 April** in **hybrid** format in **Brussels** and online and the format will be similar to the one of last year. During the first day, DG DEFIS staff will present the EDF 2025 calls for proposals and explain the submission process. During the second day, the event will provide a **unique international networking opportunity** to form defence R&D consortia and elaborate project proposals through thematic pitch sessions.

The second day will also feature **"EU Defence Investor Day"** where leading innovators, investors, EU and government representatives will come together to explore funding opportunities in key defence technologies.



The [EDF](#) is a European research and innovation program for cutting edge Defence research and development which spans from 2021 until 2027. With this program the European Commission aims to:

- Improve cooperation and interoperability between member states;
- Reduce capability shortages within the EU; and
- Strengthen the Defence-technological and industrial presence within the EU.

EU.

The EDF offers financial support at all stages of development: starting with research and ending with the development of prototypes and certification.

SECURITY & POLICING HOME OFFICE EVENT - UK

Security & Policing, the official Government global security event will take place between 11-13 March 2025 at the Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre, UK.

Security & Policing remains the premier platform for relevant UK suppliers to showcase the very latest equipment, training and support, to police services, Government departments, organisations and agencies from the UK and overseas. A key focus is to demonstrate the opportunities presented by innovative cutting edge technology.

The event creates an excellent opportunity for deepening our strong security alliances around the world and for our international partners to understand and hear about the work we are doing to keep our country secure and reduce crime in the UK and overseas.

Event Organiser: Dods and ADS Group.

For more information see also: <https://www.securityandpolicing.co.uk/about/>

BORDERLESS BORDER MANAGEMENT 2025 - ESTONIA

Estonian Academy of Security Sciences will organise on March 4-5, 2025 international conference on border management in Narva in close cooperation with the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, the Estonian Research Council, the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board, the Ministry of Interior, and TalTech, this conference is a chance to engage with experts, discuss pressing issues, and form cross-sector cooperation platforms to futureproof EU borders.

[The conference](#) will focus on the practical challenges faced in border management, such as security threats, new technologies, training, and cross-sector cooperation. By discussing these issues in depth, participants can develop innovative strategies and solutions that are grounded in real-world needs and experiences.

The conference will delve into critical themes such as:

- Multifaceted challenges in Security and Border Management
- Research and Innovation for Border Management
- Smart bots on the ground: education and Training
- Innovative Border Technologies
- Opportunities for Cross-Sectorial Cooperation

This event will include practitioners, academic institutions, and business sector representatives to explore the latest advancements and challenges in border security. For this interesting on-site event you can register [here](#).

FRAMEWORKS IN A MULTI-HAZART CONTEXT - AUSTRIA

Tackling Urban Disaster Risks: Barriers, Data Needs and Frameworks in a Multi-Hazard Context

BORIS2 - event, held online on January 30, 2025 represents the follow up of the BORIS project and aims at assessing the seismic and the flood risks having cross-border impact-potential on the Italian-Slovenian-Austrian borders in a multi-risk perspective and is targeted to the urban planners, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners involved in disaster risk reduction urban resilience, and emergency management.

[The webinar](#), delved into disaster risk management in the urban context, focusing on the challenges and solutions involved in managing risks across multiple hazards. Drawing insights from the countries in focus in the EU research project BORIS2, we will briefly overview existing data, processes, and institutional frameworks, highlighting both procedural strengths and barriers. Participants will gain valuable insights into how different national frameworks address multi-risk environments and the opportunities for improving DRM strategies in urban contexts. BORIS2 consists of 4 project consortium partners, leading - Disaster Competence Network Austria and 3 associated partners as well.



The poster for the BORIS2 Webinar features the title 'BORIS2 Webinar' at the top. Below it, the subtitle reads 'Tackling Urban Disaster Risks: Barriers, Data Needs and Frameworks in a Multi-Hazard Context'. The main image shows a damaged stone building. To the right of the image, there is a blue box containing event details: 'January 30, 2025 10 - 11.30 am (CET)', 'M5 Teams (registration required)', and 'Target groups: urban planners, policy-makers, researchers, practitioners involved in DRR, urban resilience, and emergency management'.

NATIONAL INFO DAYS AND CHALLENGES IN HORIZON EUROPE– SLOVAKIA

National Info Days on the draft Horizon Europe Work Programs for 2025

The event took place online on national level over two days - 28-29 January 2025. Its aim was to present the proposals for the new Horizon Europe work programmes for 2025, together with the call themes, missions or partnerships. It was intended at the professional public, scientists and researchers, innovators, key stakeholders, industry and other private sector actors, as well as all those interested in the European R&D and innovation environment, including of course our Cluster 3 and video message from the European Commission - Austėja Trinkūnaitė

<https://eraportal.sk/horizont-europa/podujatie/narodne-infodni-k-navrhom-pracovnych-programov-horizontu-europa-na-rok-2025/>

DEP4ALL - BEST PRACTICES - MATCHMAKING EVENT

As part of the newly created Digital Europe Programme NCP project **DEP4ALL** the online best practices session on how to organize a matchmaking event was organised on 27th January.

As guest speakers and panellists, were invited members of three NCP networks:

- SEREN5, with Flavia La Colla
- IDEAL-IST, with Judith Bloch
- DEP4ALL, with Marion Perrin

Panel discussion was moderated by Christiaan Meinsma and with very high level contribution from:

Otto Vainio, Flavia La Colla and Afonso Duarte on a basic question. “ **Did you ever organize a matchmaking/brokerage event on DEP?**”

Learning from experienced NCPs the Do’s and Don’ts of organizing a brokerage event for the Digital Europe Programme and Horizon Europe was presented. The fruitful discussion was on basics of organizing a multi-country or local matchmaking event, and shared experiences so you can plan and successfully run such an event to support your clients as well.

Finally, NCPs and NCCs could hear the perspectives from SEREN5, IDEAL-IST and DEP4ALL. During the panel discussion several remarks and interesting comments appeared to contribute with novel thoughts and ideas. The targeted groups of NCPs community and all interested in.

RIMMA FROM SWITZERLAND

[The RIMMA conference](#), was held for the first time in Bern, Switzerland, on 28th to 31st January of 2025 focuses on integrated management of natural hazards and risks, where information and warnings play a crucial role. Effective warnings enhance preparedness and complement forecasts and emergency planning as real-time data and warnings must be accessible, understandable, and tailored to different user groups. So, impact-based warnings require collaboration between meteorological services, warning services, and user groups.

This conference aimed to unite a diverse range of disciplines and experts, including meteorological and warning services, disaster and risk managers, emergency responders, and specialists in cartography, visualization, and communication. The conference focused on:

- Identifying gaps and challenges in applying new technologies
- Bridging the divide between research and practice
- Enabling operational synergies across all phases of disaster management, from monitoring and forecasting to response and recovery
- Sharing best practices and addressing methodological issues in risk modelling, visualization, and resilience analytics
- Exploring cartographic visualization of complex spatiotemporal data to enhance forecasts, warnings, and early actions
- Strengthening connections between forecasting, response, and impact
- Promoting cross-organizational information management to turn data streams and impact forecasts into actionable decisions...
- Key topics were reviewed: Disaster preparedness, Meteorological and natural hazards, Challenges in data visualization technologies...



SECURITY SYMPOSIUM

11th Symposium on European Civil Security Research.

On 5 and 6 March 2025, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is organising a [symposium on the European Security Research Programme](#). The congress will take place in Brussels including Pre-Symposium Workshop on 4 March 2025 on “Future Scenarios and the urgent need for research and innovation”. The four Diskussions runde/ Panel will be presented the actual research needs e.g. “ Synergies between the European and national”, “Keep up the good work with security research or end the idea?” and more during discussion session. The Workshop is open for participants up till max. capacity. [Registration is here](#).

NORWEGIAN CBRNE SUMMIT EUROPE 2025

CBRNe Summit Europe conference, exhibition and demonstration will take place on the 25th – 27th March 2025 and is supported by the **Norwegian Armed Forces**. On the first day of the event participants will have the opportunity to view the Norwegian Armed Forces, Civil Defence, National Police and Emergency Services’ CBRNe equipment, vehicles, and capabilities. The two-day conference will discuss the current [CBRNe threats](#) across Europe, Arctic Warfare, Response to Hazmat incidents, Medical Countermeasures, and preparedness to mass casualty incidents, RescEU program, International CBRNe Training programs and Military and Civil CBRNe capabilities across Europe, North America, and Middle East as it was announced including conference programme.

SUCCESS STORY

Defend Iceland: National bug bounty platform – ICEDEF

Project name and abbreviation: Defend Iceland: National bug bounty platform – ICEDEF
Programme: Digital Europe Programme.
Project duration: 2 October 2023 – 21 October 2026.
Budget: € 2.531.938.

ICEDEF in a nutshell:

The Icelandic National Contact Point (NCP) for Cluster 3 has been working closely with Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Iceland to support companies in finding opportunities in EU funding programmes.

The focus has primarily been on Cluster 3 in Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme.

In the face of increasing cyberattacks, Icelandic society has had to adopt robust security measures. One standout success story is Defend Iceland, an innovative company specializing in cyber security.

Defend Iceland’s ground breaking idea and implementation to enhance cyber security secured a €2.6 million grant from the Digital Europe Programme, achieving the highest possible application score. This remarkable success highlights the impact of EEN’s cooperation and support.

The Defend Iceland (ICEDEF) project aims to enhance Iceland’s cybersecurity by creating a national vulnerability reporting platform where ethical hackers can safely disclose security flaws and receive monetary rewards through bug bounty programs. Co-funded by the European Commission’s Digital Europe Programme, the initiative promotes responsible vulnerability disclosure, fosters collaboration among institutions like the University of Iceland and Reykjavik University, and integrates fixes into software development lifecycles. Educational events like hackathons and workshops are also part of the project to raise awareness and improve secure development practices.

By strengthening Iceland’s cybersecurity ecosystem, ICEDEF seeks to proactively protect the nation’s digital infrastructure and build safer digital communities. The project supports ethical hacking, encourages public and private organizations to participate in vulnerability reporting, and increases trust in digital systems. With this initiative, Iceland not only bolsters its national cybersecurity readiness but also serves as a model for integrating ethical hacking and vulnerability management into global cybersecurity practices. The EEN team and the Cluster 3 NCP at RANNIS continues to follow Defend Iceland’s journey and hopes their story (see video below) will inspire others to pursue similar initiatives. [Link to Video](#) – it is in Icelandic but the text is in English.

More information about the project: <https://defendiceland.is/en/aa>

Video about the project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5y-59NdMx8>



And for more success stories: <https://www.seren-project.eu/seren4-success-stories-2/>

SEREN5 FREE IDEA - CHECK SERVICE

Receive feedback on your ideas from NCPs – Ideas check

With the approaching opening day for Cluster 3 calls, we wanted to highlight one of SEREN5's free services. The ideas check service is suitable for clients at the early stages of work towards a cluster 3 proposal. Participants will fill out a designated form, providing information about your project idea and collaborators. Next, we will match you with a National Contact Point from SEREN5 and you'll have a dedicated meeting to discuss your idea and form, helping you identify the best topic for your idea, make sure that you are aware of all the requirements for the topics and are set on the track to move forward in the process. SEREN5 will offer this service on-site for the major Cluster 3 events, including the SM12G event and the Info Day + brokerage event, as well as an online service outside of these events. Want to know more and participate? Fill out the form found on the SEREN5 website and submit it to Dr. Yotam Beit-Yannai yotam@iserd.org.il and your local NCP.

SEREMA PLATFORM IS STILL OPEN

Still open for all potential applicants to participate in this platform.



Take into the account that the purpose of the Security Research Map (SeReMa) is to increase the visibility of security related research in Europe and to optimize the networking between research facilities, universities, public authorities, end users, suppliers of security solutions and operators of critical infrastructures and is an important communication tool.

Information link: <https://security-research-map.b2match.io/>

You can every time stay in contact with SEREN5:

Newsletter: [Subscribe to Seren5 Newsletter](#)

Send to us useful contribution directly (Dr. Marta Kollárová, marta.kollarova@cvtisr.sk)

SEREN5 provides among other things the following services:

- SeReMa partner search tool
- Brokerage events
- European Information Days
- Training stakeholders
- Promoting synergies with Security key players
- Promoting synergies with Enterprise Europe Network
- Information materials for stakeholders



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