Secure Societies – Protecting Freedom and Security of Europe and its Citizens

Societal Challenge 7

The Challenge ‘Secure Societies – Protecting the Freedom and Security of Europe and its Citizens’ concerns the protection of citizens, society and the economy as well as Europe’s assets, infrastructures and services, its prosperity, political stability and well-being. The aims of this part of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme are to:

• Boost the effectiveness of the Security Union through a Focus Area on this topic

• Protecting the infrastructure of Europe and the people in European smart cities through prevention, detection, response and mitigation approaches both in terms of physical and cyber threats. Particular focus on security in smart cities

• Fight crime and terrorism - from technologies for fighting against crime/cybercrime and terrorism to consideration of the human, social and societal factors to address in fighting crime and terrorism

• Improve border and external security – human factors and social, societal and organisational aspects, technologies, and applied solutions for border and external security;

• Create disaster-resilient societies – from considering technological approaches to management of pandemic crises

• Provide enhanced cyber-security – focussing on cybersecurity, digital privacy and data protection

Calls under Societal Challenge 7 involve a wide range of research and innovation activities, which are relevant to researchers in a number of disciplines. For example, alongside security research, there are many topics with a strong ICT focus and also those flagged as having a strong ethical and societal dimension which will therefore be of interest to those working in the social sciences and humanities.

All calls within this Societal Challenge have a strong focus on practitioner and end-user involvement to ensure that technologies and solutions which are developed are relevant for those who will use them.

What will be funded?

The 2018-2020 work programme part retains a strong focus on incorporation of a ‘user’ or practitioner perspective on development of security technologies and solutions, as was seen in the 2016-2017 work programme. Proposals are obliged to include a minimum number of practitioners or end-users as partners on the proposal, as detailed in the call information. The main calls in the 2018-2020 Secure Societies part of the Work Programme fall under these headings:

• Protecting the infrastructure of Europe and the people in European smart cities

• Security

• Digital Security

Protecting the infrastructure of Europe and the people in European smart cities

The aim of this Call is to protect and improve the resilience of critical infrastructures and soft targets.
H2020 factsheet

Security

The Security topic has the sub-calls: Disaster Resilient Society (DRS), Fighting Crime and Terrorism (FCT), Border Security and External Security (BES):

DRS – Disaster-Resilient Societies

The aim of this section is to advance innovation in society at large, and among first responders, to reduce the loss of human life and to reduce environmental, economic and material damage from natural and man-made disasters, including from climate-related weather events, earthquakes and volcanic events, space weather events, industrial disasters and crime and terrorism threats.

FCT – Fight against Crime and Terrorism

The aim of this section is to mitigate potential consequences of crime- and/or terrorism-related incidents or to avoid them. To this end, new technologies and capabilities are required. They should address the fight against and the prevention of crime (including cyber-crime), illegal trafficking and terrorism (including cyber-terrorism and CBRN-E attacks), along with understanding and tackling terrorist ideas and beliefs. Human factors and the societal context should be taken into account, whilst respecting fundamental rights, including privacy, protection of personal data and the free movement of persons.

BES – Border and External security

The aim of this section is to develop the technologies and capabilities required to enhance systems and their interoperability and develop equipment, tools, processes and methods for rapid identification to improve border security, whilst respecting fundamental rights including free movement of persons, protection of personal data and privacy. New technologies, capabilities and solutions are also required to support the Union’s external security policies in civilian tasks, ranging from civil protection to humanitarian relief, border management, law enforcement, or peace-keeping and post-crisis stabilisation, including conflict prevention, peace-building and mediation. This will also require research on conflict resolution and restoration of peace and justice, early identification of factors leading to conflict and the impact of restorative justice processes.

Digital Security

This call deals with research and innovation that enhances digital security. Proposals under this call should consider the relevant human factors and social aspects when developing innovative solutions. Where relevant, proposals should also describe how the gender dimension is taken into account in their content. The topic of this call is ‘Cybersecurity, Digital Privacy and Data Protection’.
In addition to the general policy goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, there are a number of security-specific policies which the Societal Challenge aims to contribute towards:

**The European Agenda on Security** implements the political guidelines of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in the area of security and replaces the previous Internal Security Strategy (2010-2014). Terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime are priorities, and it contributes to plans for an EU Security Union.

**The Cyber Security Strategy** was published in February 2013 and is the first comprehensive policy document produced by the EU in this area. It identifies four clear areas for EU cyberspace policy: freedom and openness; the application of the EU’s laws, norms and core values; developing cyber security capacity building; and fostering international cooperation in cyberspace issues.
H2020 factsheet

The Digital Single Market Strategy includes provision for a contractual public-private partnership on cybersecurity and was launched in May 2015.

The Security Industrial Policy is based on a Commission Communication of 30 July 2012, which recognises the importance of the security sector in terms of its potential for growth and employment in the EU. The Communication identifies four main action areas aimed at enabling the EU security-industry to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

More information

European Commission Research and Innovation Participant Portal - Call for Proposals:

European Commission Research and Innovation Participant Portal - Work Programmes:
+ ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html#h2020-work-programmes

European Commission pages on EU-funded research on Security:
+ ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/research-for-security

What is a work programme?
+ ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-work-programme#Article

EU strategy on Cyber Security and Online Privacy:

Contractual Public Private Partnership (cPPP) in Cybersecurity:
+ www.ecs-org.eu

Digital Single Market:
+ ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/digital-single-market_en

European Agenda on Security:
+ ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security_en

European Security Union:

Security Industrial Policy:
+ eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM%3A2012%3A0417%3AFIN%3AEN%3APDF

"Security in 2020: Meeting the Challenge":

UK Research Office - Sign up to the UKRO Portal to stay up to date on Horizon 2020 general developments, calls, events and results:
+ www.ukro.ac.uk
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View more H2020 factsheets in Box:
udd.box.com/v/RIS-H2020

Visit the Information for Researchers webpage for more funding opportunities and links to other resources:
www.dundee.ac.uk/research/informationforresearchers/

Contact

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