

# HORIZON EUROPE

## CLUSTER 3 - CIVIL SECURITY FOR SOCIETY

DESTINATION

“BETTER PROTECT THE EU AND ITS CITIZENS AGAINST CRIME  
AND TERRORISM”

TOPICS - FIGHTING CRIME AND TERRORISM (FCT) 2026



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**INFO DAY**  
**4 March 2026**

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**DG HOME**  
**A4 Innovation and Strategic Autonomy**

# MAIN FEATURES OF THE DESTINATION

- Related policy: Security Union Strategy, Counter-Terrorism Agenda, security dimension of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, EU Strategy to tackle organised crime, ... - stay up-to-date
- Synergies with other projects &/or calls: an asset whenever relevant and applicable
- Complementary instrument: Internal Security Fund
- ! This Destination will also promote, whenever appropriate and applicable, the proposals with:
  - the involvement of the Police Authorities in their core,
  - a clear strategy on how they will adapt to the fast-evolving environment in the area of fight against crime and terrorism (evolution of related technologies, evolution of criminal modi operandi and business models related to these technologies, etc.),
  - a minimum-needed platform, i.e. tools that are modular and can be easily plugged into another platform (in order to avoid platform multiplication),
  - tools that are developed and validated against practitioners' needs and requirements,
  - a robust plan on how they will build on the relevant predecessor projects,
  - the (active) involvement of citizens, voluntary organisations and communities,
  - education and training aspects, especially for Police Authorities and other relevant practitioners, as well as information sharing and awareness raising of the citizens,
  - a clear strategy on the uptake of the outcomes, defined in consultation with the involved stakeholders,
  - a well-developed plan both on how research data for training and testing will be obtained, in order to reach the requested Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), and on how the specific TRL will be measured.

# MAIN FEATURES OF THE DESTINATION

- **Considering the Horizon Europe strategic plan 2025-2027, proposals for topics under this Destination will support the Commission's priorities by addressing new, upcoming or unforeseen challenges and/or creative or disruptive solutions for improving the prevention, detection and deterrence of various forms of crime or terrorism/radicalisation through an enhanced understanding of the related societal issues.**

In doing so, research and innovation projects funded under cluster 3 will contribute to safeguarding, sustaining, and improving the Union's unique quality of life, by improving the Union's ability to prevent, detect, and deter various forms of crime and terrorism, including the different forms of hybrid threats and gender-based violence, in a proportional and human rights-compliant manner. Research under this Destination will contribute to the forthcoming Internal Security Strategy and Counter-Terrorism Agenda.

- **This destination will support the implementation of the European Commission political guidelines 2024-2029 for a 'Safer and more secure Europe' as well as of ProtectEU – a European Internal Security Strategy to support Member States and bolster the EU's ability to guarantee security for its citizens, and the Preparedness Union Strategy to support Member States and enhance Europe's capability to prevent and respond to emerging threats.**

Overall, research under this Cluster should continue to focus on preserving and ensuring citizens' basic right to feel secure. This destination will also support the European Commission efforts towards a new Counter-Terrorism Agenda to address new and emerging threats, and a united approach to security, centred around a new European Critical Communication System to be used by public authorities in charge of security and safety.

# MAIN IMPACTS

- Modern information analysis for Police Authorities, allowing them to efficiently fight criminals and terrorists who use novel technologies;
- Improved forensics and lawful evidence collection, increasing the capabilities to apprehend criminals and terrorists and bring them to the court;
- Enhanced prevention, detection and deterrence of societal issues related to various forms of crime, including cybercrime, and terrorism, such as violent radicalisation, as well as domestic sexual violence, and gender-based violence, with a particular emphasis on protecting populations in a vulnerable situation and victims at increased risk of violence, including those affected by child sexual abuse and juvenile delinquency;
- Increased security of citizens against terrorism, including in public spaces (while preserving their quality and openness);
- Improved intelligence picture and enhanced prevention, detection and deterrence of various forms of organised crime;
- More secure cyberspace for citizens, especially children and elderly people, through a robust prevention, detection, and protection from cybercriminal activities.

# A FEW OTHER POINTS...

- In the context of this Destination, ‘Police Authorities’ means public authorities explicitly designated by national law, or other entities legally mandated by the competent national authority, for the prevention, detection and/or investigation of terrorist offences or other criminal offences, specifically excluding police academies, forensic institutes, training facilities as well as border and customs authorities. Each topic requires the active involvement, as beneficiaries, of some practitioners.

**! For these participants, applicants must fill in the table “[Information about security practitioners](#)” in the application form with all the requested information, following the template provided in the submission IT tool!**

- Classified and security sensitive data, gender aspects, SSH integration
- “all” vs. “contribution to some or all of the following outcomes”
- “If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).”
- Some activities resulting from topics may involve using classified background and/or producing of security sensitive results (EUCI and SEN). Please refer to the related provisions in section B Security - EU classified and sensitive information of the General Annexes.

- **HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-01: Improving capabilities of law enforcement to counter climate-related challenges**
  - RIA, 8 M€ EU contribution, TRL5, at least 2 Police Authorities from at least 2 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.
- **HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-02: Open topic on preventing and countering the misuse of emerging technologies for criminal purposes, including issues related to lawful access to data**
  - RIA, 9 M€ EU contribution, TRL5, at least 2 Police Authorities from at least 2 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.
- **HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-03: Missing persons: prevention and investigation**
  - IA, 5 M€ EU contribution, TRL6-8, at least 3 Police Authorities and at least 2 Civil Society Organisations (or Non-Governmental Organisations) from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

- **HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-04: Crime prevention approaches, online and off-line, tackling the nexus between addictions and crime**
  - RIA, 6 M€ EU contribution, TRL5, at least 2 Police Authorities and at least 2 Civil Society Organisations (or Non-Governmental Organisations) from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.
- **HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-05: Enhancing the security of citizens against terrorism and lone-actor violence in confined spaces such as schools**
  - IA, 9.67 M€ EU contribution, TRL6-8, at least 3 Police Authorities and at least 2 Civil Society Organisations (or Non-Governmental Organisations) from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries.
- **HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-FCT-06: Prevention and mitigation of misuse of synthetic biology for bioterrorism purposes**
  - RIA, 3 M€ EU contribution, TRL4-5, conditions described in General Annex B.

# More Information and Resources



COMMUNITY OF USERS FOR SAFE, SECURE AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES (CERIS)

ANNUAL SECURITY RESEARCH EVENT (SRE)

NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR EU SECURITY RESEARCH + SEREN NETWORK



HORIZON EUROPE STRATEGIC PLAN

DG HOME WEBSITE

EU FUNDING & TENDERS PORTAL

# More Information and resources



**[Horizon Europe Cluster 3  
“Civil Security for Society”](#)**



**[EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)**



**[Community for European Research  
and Innovation for Security \(CERIS\)](#)**



**[National Contact Points  
for EU security research](#)**



**[@EUHomeAffairs](#)**  
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**[EUHomeAffairs](#)**



**[Enhancing security through R&I  
SWD\(2021\)422](#)**



**[Critical infrastructure resilience  
at EU Policies](#)**



**[Eu-LISA on EU research](#)**



**[EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security](#)**



**[EU Innovation and security research](#)**



# Thank you!

## # HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>

## #EUsecurityResearch

[Cluster 3](#)



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