FCT Call

Questions from the Info Day	Answer
How can we build on previuos projects if there is no public details of them available?	There are public details on previous projects. For example, Cordis (https://cordis.europa.eu/) contains information on all FP7 and H2020 projects, not only in security domain. Each H2020 security research project has also its own web site. As another example, for ISF projects, please check DH HOME website. For other projects, please use web browsers, CERIS events etc. As always in research, an applicant in a specific topic is supposed to be aware of the state of the art i.e. what was and has been going on in the area s/he tackles.
could you clarify the reverse gender statement please	The term "reverse" was probably not well chosen. It simply means that if no gender issue is explicitly mentioned in the text of the topic, this means that gender aspect has to be addressed.
What about the role of AI in FCT-01-06: The call text does not mention AI explicitly, how much of a role can be assigned to AI research here?	We have decided not to be prescriptive regarding which technological means to use, as this is a research programme so it is up to researchers to determine which tool would be the most suited.
Questions from the NCPs meeting	**Answer**
To ensure a balanced portfolio, grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to those that are the highest ranked within set topics, provided that the applications attain all threshold" mean exactly?	A budget envelope includes more than one topic: first, the highest ranking proposal for each of the topics in the envelope will be funded; secondly, the best ranking proposal of any of the topics in the budget envelope will be funded (not favouring one or the other topic)
Does Interpol count as a LEA?	A definiton of Police Authorities (not LEAs in Horizon Europe) is provided in the call with a view to provide more clarity. PA designed by national law and other national authorities etc. (Please check the definition in the call).
As regards the minimum requirment of 3 police authorities: do applicants need to provide documents to prove the national law?	No need to provide systematically prove of official documents as normally it is clear cut. There is the template for the eligibility to fill in where applicants can demonstrate the basis.
At least 2 police authorities + 2 first responders, for example in topic FCT-01-07. Does that mean that the minimum consortium is 4 partners?	Normally yes, but cannot be generalized, please check in the text of the topic.
Please, can you explain a bit more how can be addressed in HORIZON-CL3-2021-FCT-01-01 the request of "Coordination with successful proposals from topic HORIZON-CL3-2021-FCT-01-04" should be explained at proposal level?	at proposal level unclear which proposal will be funded in a parallel topic, but you should plan common activities with the future winners, no specific names but clear intention to work together.

Topic: "HORIZON-CL3-2021-FCT-01-03: Disinformation and fake news are combated and trust in the digital world is raised" says: Coordination with successful proposals from topics HORIZON-CL2-DEMOCRACY-2021- 01-08 (Politics and governance in a post-pandemic world), HORIZON-CL2-DEMOCRACY2022-01-06 (Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media) and HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01-27 (AI to fight disinformation) should be envisaged so as to avoid duplication and to exploit complementarities as well as opportunities for increased impact. The topics from cluster 2 are not well identified. In Cluster 2 WP the topic is HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-07: Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media, not 06 and HORIZON-CL2-DEMOCRACY-2021- 01-08 Is not correct. It is only in 2022. also, in CL2 WP it is only mentioned for topic HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-07: Politics and the impact of online social networks and new media Synergies with CL3, and not for 01-08	Unfortunately, this is due to some late changes to the Cluster 2 WP part, that occurred after the finalisation of the Cluster 3 WP part. We will publish the correction.
social media related topics, is the focus of the tool mainly police forces?	yes but also other practitioners are focus as explained in the topic
FCT 01 03 for cluster two the identification number is not correct. Synergies requested but not clear the link in CL2 and CL3.	will be corrected by DG RTD
It says to address some or all impacts. Do we get better score according to the number of aspects addressed?	The more the better, yet not at all costs. Quantity and quality need to be there. For example, if two proposals are of a good quality but one covers more impacts, that one would be prioritized.
"If applicable and relevant, coordination with related activities in the Digital Europe Programme should be envisaged too." how to demonstrate it? As you prrobalbly know, the Digital Europe Programme is not yet published but we expect it will be published in autumn.	if in DEP there is similar topic and the applicants mention possible cooperation in a reasonable way then it is added value.
As a follow-up on the Digital Europe Programme, with the DEP calls being postponed, how will the Commission evaluatate these synergies? Can you give a list of exemples of activities that you would expect for the synergies? This is a transversal action but I'mm mainly interested for the CS topics. shall it be a specific tasks? WP?	As explained above, the intention of working together is important and the awareness as well. Examples are various and depend on the topics addressed by the applicants and we cannot provide an exhaustive list. One example could be exchange of data.

Resilient Infrastructures Call

Questions from Info Day	Answer
The objectives of the call look very similar to the H2020. What are the main differences for accelerating/incentivising infrastucture resilience? What is expected for the shift?	Security Research related to infrastructure protection has been traditionally following a sectorial approach. Due to the increased complexity and interconnectivity of infrastructures, a stronger focus on the systemic dimension needs to be applied. There is a clear need for a response to systemic disruptions with a comprehensive strategy and coordinated action at a very large-scale, that takes into account different forms of interdependence and allows for a rapid and adequate response in case of potential disruption of several key infrastructures. The main novelty is that the focus is in a significantly large scale coordinated response against systemic disruptions of critical infrastructures.
Is the protection of drinking water systems included in the HE call ?	Types of key infrastructures, such as energy, water, communications, transport, finance, etc., are covered.
Could you give examples of 1) government etities and 2) opetators of critical infrastructures?	An example of "Government entity" is a Ministry at national level or higher. The operators of critical infrastructures provide services in a number of sectors (such as transport, energy, health, water, etc.) which are necessary for vital societal functions and economic activities. An example of "Operator of critical infrastructure" is the operator of electric power Infrastructure at a national level.
"active involvement as beneficiaries" means partners in the consortium?	Yes , "active involvement as beneficiaries" means participants in the consortium
Are all the concepts in this call in reference with the concepts of the NIS2 proposal Directive? meaning OES and Critical Infrastructures	The sectors that are covered by the proposal of the NIS2 Directive, since is not adopted yet, are useful source of inspiration and are taken into account. However, participants are not limited to the sectors covered by the proposal of NIS2 Directive.
is "testing manuals" a mandatory activity?	The topic encourages the development of tools for operational testing in real-scenarios or simulated scenarios.
do ALL the outcomes need to be addressed in the proposal?	For INFRA-01-01 the scope mentions that projects are expected to contribute to "some" outcomes. For INFRA-01-02, projects are expected to contribute to some or all of the expected outcomes.
Could you please explain what specifically is meant by "decentralisation of CI"?	Decentralised infrastructures are preferable to large systems that depend on a centralized architecture. The decentralisation of large infrastructure, mitigates vulnerability in case of large scale disruptions and increases infrastructure resilience.

INFRA-01-01: contradiction "participation is limited to MS and AC" "security research should stimulate knowledge and cooperation with relevant third countries"	In INFRA 01-01, as mentioned in the eligibility conditions of the topic, in order to achieve the expected outcomes, and safeguard the Union's strategic assets, interests, autonomy, or security, namely the security-sensitive nature of the autonomy of European infrastructures against systemic risks and hybrid threats, participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States and Associated Countries. Proposals including as participants legal entities which are not established in these countries will be ineligible. The topic indicates that Infrastructure security research is in many cases transnational and there has been less of a focus on cross-border scenarios with third-countries. Security research should stimulate knowledge generation and cooperation with relevant third countries, which are vital for the functioning of European infrastructure, e.g. energy, critical supplies, digital services or transport.
Is the industry highly recommended to be part of the consortium?	For INFRA-01-02, the testing and/or piloting of the strategies developed in a real setting with one or more relevant public authorities is an asset; regardless, actions should foresee how they will facilitate the uptake, replication across setting and up-scaling of the capabilities - i.e. solutions, tools, processes et al. – to be developed by the project.
Questions from NCPs	**Answer**
HORIZON-CL3-2021-INFRA-01-01. It says that proposal must contribute to some of the outcomes, not all. But combining those with what in the scope is written as a must, suggests that some outcomes are mandatory. Is this right?	Indeed, some of the expected outcomes are required by the scope of the topic.
HORIZON-CL3-2021-INFRA-01-01. what will be included by govermental authorities?	3 government entities from 3 MSs. They could be ministries, agencies at national level, federal agencies, intelligence, federal police. National level but also higher level.
nuclear energy infrastructures can be envisaged or they follow under euratom programme?	All operators of critical infrastructures at a national level that provide large-scale services in a number of sectors (such as energy, health, water, etc.) shall be envisaged in the topic.
Regarding INFRA-01-01 and the eiligibility criteria: partners established in a MS or AC can participate. A company registered as a legal entity in a MS, but owned by a company established in a 3rd country company are eligible then. Is that correct?	This topic does not exclude the participation of EU-based entities owned/controlled by companies established in third countries.
Do you envisage to have all the association processes to be finished by the end of the summer?	This seems a little too ambitious, more time needed then by end of summer. Before signature of GA, association agreements must be in place.

CERIS from Info Day	Answer
who can be part of CERIS? what is the process behind becoming part of CERIS?	Anyone can suscribe under https://www.securityresearch-cou.eu/suscribe
also, you mentioned a lot of invitation only workshops. what is the criteria to be invited? do you envisage open to everyone workshops?	Some workshops are opened (e.g. DRS), others are by invitation only (e.g. FCT)
How to get an invitation to workshops?	Notifications are sent via the CERIS mailing list and onthe website
Who is the entity managing CERIS? Is it the Commission or some body of entities?	The Commission (DG HOME) is chairing CERIS
How do you make available presentations after the CERIS events? Are they available at its website?	Workshops are made available on the CERIUS Website
Can you clarify a bit further how SMEs can become CERIS members?	Subscription is opened to all: https://www.securityresearch-cou.eu/suscribe

DRS Call from Info Day	Answer
do the projects need to cover all risks, from rapid, fast, slow-onestt hazards?	No, there is no expectation to be exhaustive, proposers need to check whether the scope mentions "some" or "all" outcomes
You only consider SSH in terms of studying wider society, but not the security practitioners themselves e.g., how they use the tools etc. Is this true?	SSH is about societal impacts, practitioner's operations may impact society, hence the way they use tool etc. is considered to be part of SSH
DRS-01-02: Could you provide examples of SSH areas that could be covered?	The topic deals with climate extreme events, basically this covers a wide range of SSH areas.
Can you, please, explain the main differences between topics DRS-01-01 and DRS-01-03? Thanks	Both topics are indeed closely linked. DRS-01-01 deals with multihazards (hence natural and man-made) management strategies in an interdisciplinary fashion, establishing baseline scenarios and enhancing multiactors dialogue. DRS-01-03 is more focused on vulnerabilty analysis related to natural hazards, integrating societal expertise and developing service-oriented approaches, risk assessment / resilience need to involve different scientific disciplines including historial science (historical data from past centuries included).
Am I right to assume that risk assessment is relevant on all scales, household, neighbourhood, local, regional, national, cross-boundary?	In principle yes, all scales should be considered
For 01-03 AI shall only be used to identify sources of uncertainty in hazard assessment & ways to reduce them (3rd bullet), not for e.g. vulnerability analysis?	The topics indicates that AI is to be considered not only for uncertainty analysis but also to "o improve high-level assessment from international to local levels", which basically covers vulnerabllikty analyses

Does DRS-01-03 refer only to natural hazards or also man-made disasters?	The focus is clearly on natural hazards
The requirement in topics 01-02 is of: 3CSOs + 3 practitioner entities + 3 (..) etc, or just 3 entitites? Is itan "and" or an "or" thing? Many thanks!	The number 3 refers to the three categories, i.e. at least one representative of each of the 3 categories
you mention to keep in mind colaboration with ceris. any further input you can give about that?	Expected participation of projects to CERIS activities (workshops, conferences, synergy-building, clustering) with possible co-funding of events co-chaired with projects and the Commission
Extreme climate events is the next topic (03) I thought?	The topic related to extreme events is: HORIZON-CL3-2021-DRS-01-02: Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction for extreme climate events: from early warning systems to long term adaptation and resilience building
Questions from NCPs meeting	**Answer**
Topics: HORIZON-CL3-2021-DRS-01-01, 02 03, 04 requires the active involvement, as beneficiaries, of at least 3 organisations representing citizens or local communities, practitioners, and local or regional authorities and private sector from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated countries: does this mean 3 citizens orgs from 3 different countries + 3 orgs of practcioners from 3 different countries + 3 local authorities from 3 different countries Total 9), or, 3 organizations of that type from 3 different countries or total 3?	at least one of each from at least 3 different countries
Is there an agreement on co-funding with Korea?	While coperation might be encouraged, there is no agreement in place with Korea
Where possible and relevant, synergy-building and clustering initiatives with successful proposals in the same area should be considered-" Any suggestions of successful proposals you are referring to? H2020 projects? Projects under other funding mechanisms?	no strong synergy yet, in the info day some examples of some H2020 projects, not exhaustive but proposals could find out by themselves (look at the slides of info day)
HORIZON-CL3-2021-DRS-01-03 This topic requires a multidisciplinary consortium involving: • representatives of scientific areas that are related to disaster risk management, societal and historical aspects; What does this mean exactly? What representatives? Team member level or organizational level? Is there a minimum number of representatives? Is it 1 representative of a scientific area related to disaster risk management, 1 for societal aspects, and 1 for historical	societal dimension is important and needs to be taken into account. Data also important including historic data and historical aspects.

aspects? Is there an indication by the EC what are the disaster risk management related scientific fields?	
will you upload the presentations from the last CERIS workshops on the website?	yes

Border Management Call	
Questions from Info Day	**Answer**
HORIZON-CL3-2021-BM-01-01 has indicative budget of 20m, so 3x 7m projects could be funded. You list only 1. Why is that so?	The budget of 20 million is shared with other topics (check footnotes)
Could you comment reg. "grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to those that are the highest ranked within set.."	A budget envelope includes more than one topic: first, the highest ranking proposal for each of the topics in the envelope will be funded; secondly, the best ranking proposal of any of the topics in the budget envelope will be funded (not favouring one or the other topic)
Questions from NCPs meeting	**Answer**
project must have to customs authorithies and two boarder authorities?	Practitioners with different tasks should be in the project. Not only boarder related dimension, we would like to see also customs and police authorities.
Could you give an example of how to integrate Galileo in BM services?	in other parts of EU WPs we indicate that GPS could be used. This is up to the applicants how to create synergy. When positining navigating etc for instance in surveillance it makes sense to use Galileo.
international cooperation in postal topic. Can this be addressed by international postal operators?	yes it makes sense, however not only postal operator. Any international dimension if valid and appropriate are acceptable. Without excluding cooperation with customs from other countries. Private operators are reasonable way to address IC.

Frontex session	
Can EBCG be part, as partner, of the consortia in any of the BM-01-01, BM-01-02 or BM-01-03 topics?	As indicated in the work programme, and along the lines of the collaboration between the Commission and Frontex on border security research outlined in the published Terms of Reference, there is no need for Frontex (the Agency) to be a partner of a consortium or in the advisory board (or similia) of a project. The Agency will be informed on, engage relevant projects in presenting their research to the EBCG community (Agency and Member States Border Guard authorities).
Is it correct that Frontex itself will not participate in Horizon Europe research projects as a partner? Sould Frontex be contacted by consortia in formation?	Yes, it is correct. The work programme suggests, for topics BM-01, BM-02, BM-03, to "Proposals under this topic are expected to address the priorities of the European Border and Coast Guard and of its Agency (Frontex) starting from the design of their work, and engage with the Agency in the development of the project. Proposals should give a key role to Frontex in validating the project outcomes, with the aim of facilitating future uptake of innovations for the border and coast guard community". At proposal stage, applicants should address priorities of the EBCG and the Agency, basing on available documentation from the Agency, available on its website and/or linked from the Participant Portal, or the InfoDays materials. All questions submitted to the RES regarding these aspects will be answered also with an input of the Agency. If applicants will contact Frontex, the Agency will redirect them to the RES.
Does Frontex cooperate with member states' border and cost guards in research and innovation? If so, how?	Yes, according to the legal basis (see Article 9 on capability development for example, as well as Article 66 on research and innovation. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is governed by Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard.
	References/suggested readings on the requirements of "addressing the priroities of the EBCG and its Agency from the design of the project" for topics BM-01, BM-02, BM-03: • Frontex Regulation : EUR-Lex - 32019R1896 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu) • Technical and Operational strategy for EU IBM: EU_IBM_Brochure_EN.pdf (europa.eu) • Risk Analysis 2021: Frontex releases Risk Analysis for 2021 (europa.eu) • Sea Border Surveillance report 2019 : Key Documents (europa.eu) • Other publications: Publications (europa.eu) • The ToR Frontex-Home: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/default/files/20200206_tor-ec-dg-home-frontex.pdf
Are Customs Authorities included in Border Guard Authorities or are they considered as different entities?	It depends on their tasks basing on national systems and regulations.

Practically, how is the involvement of FRONTEX in funded proposals envisaged? Actively as end-user? Advisor? Participating in request analysis and validations?	See above
Does Frontedx now have the bandwidth to monitor all relevant projects this has been an issue in h2020	The Agency will have to prioritize the projects based on the interest for the border guard community and the available research officers.
Can potential consortia contact the Agency during proposal preparation in order to check whether the proposal is in line with that it is envisaged?	See above
Which is the relationship between EBCG and the Associated Countries?	Frontex invites Schengen Associated countries to Agency's activities related to EU funded border security projects (for example to the annual workshop between projects and the European Border and Coast Guard Community).
How can we involve actively FRONTEX without being a project beneficiary? Can you please list a series of actions that FRONTEX can do in a project?	See above

SSRI Call	
Some of your expected outcomes seem to be impacts. What would be an example of an impact from your expected outcome(s)?	The impact logic of HE has been defined in the Strategic Plan of Pillar II. It links the main Policy priorities with 4 strategic orientations and 15 impact areas, which are linked to 32 expected impacts. Each of these expected impacts is addressed through specific action packages in each work programme and these packages are called destinations. The expected outcomes in each topic refer to the desired effects of the project in the mid-term. Not to the immediate outputs of the project, but to the expected effects of the exploitation and dissemination of these outputs. The expected outcomes of the SSRI topics will contribute to the impacts defined at destination level, but also to the expected impacts 11, 12 and 13, and to two impact areas of the Key Strategic Orientation D "Creating a more resilient, inclusive and democratic European society", as defined in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2021-2024.
Is this topic SSRI 01-02 have to address cyber in all sectors?	The topic HORIZON-CL3-2021-SSRI-01-02 will fund a maximum of two Knowledge Network projects in the areas of Border Security and Resilient Infrastructure (only one network in each domain can be funded). It shall be up to the applicants to consider if the cyber dimension is of relevance for the policy areas addressed. The policy context applicable to each of the two networks is the same one described in the respective destinations (BM and INFRA) in the HE CL3 work programme 2021-2022.

Legal and Financial Aspects

Legal question: is there a need to create an EEIG under EC Reg. 2137/85 to shape a consortium? If so, what are limitations for state institutions/public bodies?	No, there is no need to create a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) under EC Reg. 2137/85 to form a consortium but an EEIG can participate in the consortium if the conditions are met. According to Article 22 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe, any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment and including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations, may participate in actions under the Programme, provided that the conditions laid down in this Regulation have been met together with any conditions laid down in the work programme or call for proposals.
When the Annotated GA will be available?	The Annotated Grant Agreement is currently under internal consultation within the European Comission and will be available on the Tender & Funding Portal under Guidance within Reference documents in the following link as soon as the process is finalised: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf
What data types are likely to be in the data sheet, beyond parties' details?	The data sheet includes a summary of the specific data of the particular grant agreement. Besides the List of particpants and thier basic details (e.g. legal and short name, role, country, PIC, and entry and exit date, etc.) the data sheet among others includes General data (i.e. Project summary, Keywords, Project No., name and acronym, call, topic, type of action, granting authority, start and end date, etc.); Grant form, mode and budget with total eligible costs and maximum grant amount; Reporting periods and payment information. The full template of the data sheet can be found in the Model Grant Agreements which are published on the Tender & Funding Portal under Reference documents in the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

Are there any differences in between H2020 and HE in terms of coordinator's financial eligibility to run e.g. project of 6m EUR?	No, the basic principles have not changed. The EU Financial Regulation requires that participants in EU grants (i.e. under Horizon Europe or other programmes) and tenders must have sufficient financial capacity to implement their project/tender. There are certain exceptions among others which in HE, like in H2020, the financial capacity shall be verified only for the coordinator and only if the requested funding from the Union for the action is equal to or greater than EUR 500 000. Nonetheless, FCA can be required at any time for any applicant if the funding authority considers it necessary. The Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment is published on the Funding & Tender Portal under Reference documents in the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca_en.pdf
is the MGA available? Yesterday it said "coming soon" :)	Yes, the Model Grant Agreements are published on the Tender & Funding Portal under Reference documents e.g. in the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf
Can a portion of the funding (up to 20%) be used to contract with a subcontractor outside the EU community (USA)?	According to the general principles of the grant agreement, the beneficiaries - who are the signatoris of the agreement - must have the appropriate resources to implement the action under their own responsibility towards the granting authority (Article 7 and 11 MGA). Nonetheless, the beneficiaries can use, among others, subcontractors if it is necessary for the proper implementation of the action. Although there is no threshold by %, subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action (Article 6.2.B MGA). Unless the conditions of the call for proposal specifies it otherwise any entity can be selected as subcontractor, provided that the rules of the grant agreement are followed. Subcontracting costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 6.2.b, 9.3 and 12 MGA).

About LEAR:,in case of a trans-European company, should it be the Group CEO or can it be the legal signatories of the local/national entities of the Group?	The Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment is published on the Funding & Tender Portal under Reference documents in the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca_en.pdf
Is the funding rate of 100% for PCP projects for all partners or only procurers?	Under Horizon Europe the maximum funding rate for a PCP Action is 100% for the actual PCP (1 joint PCP procurement/action) + related activities (i.e. to prepare, manage and follow-up the PCP procurement + embed the PCP in a wider demand side context (e.g. to test / label / certify / standardise solutions, prepare follow-up procurement, awareness raising and training)
Can an associate partner be considered one that used to provide a Letter of support in H2020?	Associated partners (Article 9.1 MGA) are similar to the International partners under H2020 (Article 14a). These are entities that cooperate with one or more beneficiaries and can be linked to them or to the whole consortium. They do not sign the GA but they are identified therein and they must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement. They may not charge costs or contributions to the action and the costs for their tasks are not eligible therefore associated partners are not required to report on their costs.
Is it possible to involve expert from USA or Canada to the project Advisory Board and reimburse his travel/fee costs?	Yes it is possible provided that it is necessary and justified for the proper implementation of the action and the costs meet the general and specific cost eligibility conditions established among others under Article 6 of the grant agreement.
Do we have to include in the proposal budget the budget amount committed by associated partners (in the own resources field)?	In Horizon Europe only, applicants may include the total estimated costs of their Associated Partner in the budget for their proposal (i.e in Annex 2 under 'Other sources of financing': 'Financial contributions' and 'Own resources' headings). Nonetheless, this is for information purposes only. The associated partners are not required to report on their costs.

What is the difference between other costs (services) and subcontracting costs?	The core criterium for distinguishing between subcontracts and contracts/purchases is whether it concerns an action task as set out in the description of the action (Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement). According to the definitions of the grant agreement, **subcontracting costs** are costs deriving from specific contracts for goods, works or services that **are part of the action tasks** (i.e. included and described in Annex 1), whereas other costs like from **purchase contract** are costs from contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which **are not part of the action tasks of the grant agreement**. (see Article 2, 6.2.B and C, 9.3, 12, etc.).
Are costs of the Security Advisory Board members or any other advisors, not being direct beneficiaries, eligible?	[same or similar as No. 12.] Yes it is possible provided that it is necessary and justified for the proper implementation of the action and the costs meet the general and specific cost eligibility conditions established among others under Article 6 of the grant agreement.
Are there any formal rules of choosing subcontractors? Does the Beneficiary have to provide that they were chosen according to the rule 'best value for money'?	Yes there are formal rules defined in the grant agreement. Subcontracting costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 6.2.B, 9.3, 12, etc.). The beneficiaries can in principle freely choose between best value for money and lowest price. Best value for money applies the general cost eligibility condition set out in Article 6.1 (a)(vii) (i.e. that costs must be reasonable and comply with the principle of sound financial management) to the subcontracting context. It does NOT necessarily require competitive selection procedures. However, if a beneficiary did not request several offers, it must — in case of in case of a check, review , audit or investigation — be able to show that the price was market-value and that the criteria defining quality were clear and coherent with the purposes of the purchase.
If the total funding of a partner is less than 450 K EUR are we obliged to issue a certificate?	First of all the threshold is 430.000 euro and not 450.000 euro. If the EC requested amount of a partner is less then 430.000 euro, then No, no CFS is needed.
is there any change regarding the use of the hourly rate (for researchers with salary) of the last closed year, even for the months of the current year?	Indeed the personnel cost calculation under Horizon Europe has changed compared to H2020. Discontinuation of the different formulas (annual and monthly) and options for productive hours (entailing difficult and error-prone calculations). There is no more 'last closed financial year' rule. Instead, under Horizon Europe there is use of a single corporate daily rate and calendar year approach

Does the 430.000 CFS threshold includes the indirect costs?	Yes, the indirect costs are included, as in Horizon Europe, the threshold off 430.000 euros is the requested EC contribution calculated on all costs. Once the threshold of 430.000 euro is reached a CFS is needed. Under this amount, no CFS needs to issued.

Security aspects	Reply
How does a resultant sensitive information impact associated countries if EU sensitive	The sensitive information with a security recommendation (Art. 13.1 MGA) require limited dissemination due to security reasons. In principle, only consortium and granting authority staff can access this type of information. Thus if the consortium includes associated non-EU countries, beneficiaries from those countries will be also able to access this information. Moreover, in case the consortium has identified a group of stakeholders that have an established need to know, they should indicate this in the security section and list the entities concerned in the table dedicated to this information. Entities other than those listed in the relevant table of the security section should not access sensitive information. In case, the consortium intends to disclose this information to any other entity, they must always ask for the prior written authorisation of the granting authority.
How is the IT tool preventing the inclusion of classified information, given the varied nature of the latter?	The IT tool for the proposal submission does not prevent this per se. It is the responsibility of the applicants not to include classified information in their proposals. However, regarding the system in which projects should upload their deliverables, a new feature has been recently implemented that prevents the upload of any deliverable that is classified. This was implemented in order to prevent security breaches of the rules and the contractual obligations stemming from the grant agreement, and which would trigger consequences both at EU and national level. The Horizon Europe Programme Security Instruction (PSI) describes in detail the procedure on how to handle classified information. The beneficiaries are responsible to respect and follow all the procedures concerning classified information described in the PSI. This document will be made available to applicants and beneficiaries via the Funding and Tenders portal.
Are costs to adapt partner facilities of a security sensitive project eligible?(in case national legislation obliges the partner to make such adaptations)	In case a project is likely to raise security issues, there will be certain security requirements that need to be complied with and some of the security requirements may imply additional costs. The total amount of the grant remains always unchanged, but the costs related to the handling of classified information (e.g. purchase of special software) are eligible, meaning that they will be reimbursed.
With reference to the Calls of Horizon Europe - Civil Security for Society HORIZON-CL3-2021, do the "H2020 - Guidelines for the classification of information in research projects" remain in force? Do new guidelines for Horizon Europe come up later?	This guidance document has been updated and the new version for Horizon Europe will be soon made available to applicants and beneficiaries via the Funding and Tenders portal.

Sensitive/classified info, EU Member/non-EU Member countries mentioned. Does it mean a consortium involving Associate Members automatically deemed risky?	Access to sensitive information for security reasons has been dealt with under question 6. Consortium members, including EU MS and non-EU countries, can have access to this information, because they are bound by the confidentiality rules. As far as classified information is concerned, the answer is different. Only beneficiaries from non-EU countries with a valid Security of Information Agreement with the EU can access and handle classified information used or produced by a project. There is no restriction for non- EU countries without Security Agreement to the participate to projects involving classified information, however they cannot have access to classified information. The non- EU countries possessing a Security Agreement with the EU are to be found in the Council document 15035/19
With reference to the Calls of Horizon Europe - Civil Security for Society HORIZON-CL3-2021, do members of the Security Advisory Board (SAB) have to be external experts or may they also be from beneficiaries of the project? In addition, are the costs related to travel & subsistance, as well as time spent on the project eligible for the Security Advisory Board members.	According to the instructions on how to complete the Security Section in Part B of the proposal, which are to be found in the document itself, SAB members should preferably be end-user representatives/external reviewer(s) with a good knowledge of the security issues raised by the specific project research field. However, if external experts cannot be found despite the reasonable efforts made by the consortium, we could accept, based on a case by case assessment, beneficiaries from the project to be appointed as SAB members. The most important element that needs to be respected, is that these experts have a good knowledge both on the research field of the project concerned and the relevant security issues that could emerge in the framework of this research field as well as fulfil the security related obligations e.g. holding a valid Personal Security Clearance (PSC). All the costs relating to security requirements, such as the appointment of the SAB, are eligible.
What is the situation of the UK wrt the exchange of security classified information?	A Security of Information Agreement is expected to be signed with the UK in the autumn
What about Switzerland and classified information?	At this point in time, Switzerland cannot be considered as a candidate to associate to Horizon Europe. Therefore, entities established in Switzerland will be treated as high-income country entities not automatically eligible for funding (they may participate e.g. as Associated Partners). For more information on international cooperation and association, please consult the Horizon Europe Programme Guide.
Is there an official classification for all EU countries?	All EU MS have their own official classification system. The equivalence of EU and national security classifications can be found in Annex 1 of the Commission Decision 444/2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information.

What is the status of the association countries agreements?	"The association of countries to Horizon Europe is currently at negotiation stage, it is expected that all countries associated to Horizon 2020 will also associate to Horizon Europe. The UK is also expected to associate. The up-to-date list of candidate countries for association can be found in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide which is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal. For the purposes of the eligibility conditions, applicants established in Horizon 2020 Associated Countries or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe will be treated as entities established in an Associated Country, if the Horizon Europe association agreement with the third country concerned applies at the time of signature of the grant agreement. Please consult the Horizon Europe Programme Guide and the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme for more information."
Could you maybe also confirm that if the deadline of the security scrutiny is not met, the entity/entities from the corresponding country is/are excluded from participating in the consortium and therefore do not get the EU funding?	A. If the expert of a given country does not perform within the set deadlines his/her tasks concerning the security scrutiny, this will not affect the eligibility and participation of that country's entities in the project, but will result in excluding this country from the next phases of the security scrutiny procedure. In practice, this means that this country will not be able to participate in the experts' discussions nor influence the security scrutiny results and recommendations that will be issued for this specific proposal. Such kind of situations would put into question the whole process and should be avoided by all means.