



**EUROPEAN
DEFENCE
FUND**

National EDF Info Day Slovenia

Ljubljana

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Directorate B - Defence Industrial Programmes

Unit B2 – Defence Technologies



European
Commission

DEFIS

Background – EU defence industry landscape



Lack of cooperation between Member States in the field of security and defence is estimated to cost between €25 billion - €100 billion every year.

- **Fragmented demand:** organised along national lines, lack of cooperative investment
- **Fragmented supply:** industry structured along national borders due to national expression of demand
- **Dependencies** on third countries for key equipment and raw materials (Majority of defence acquisitions by MSs btw February 2022 and June 2023 made from outside the EU)

► **Return of high-intensity warfare scenarios** requires fixing capability shortfalls, implying production ramp-up by European industry



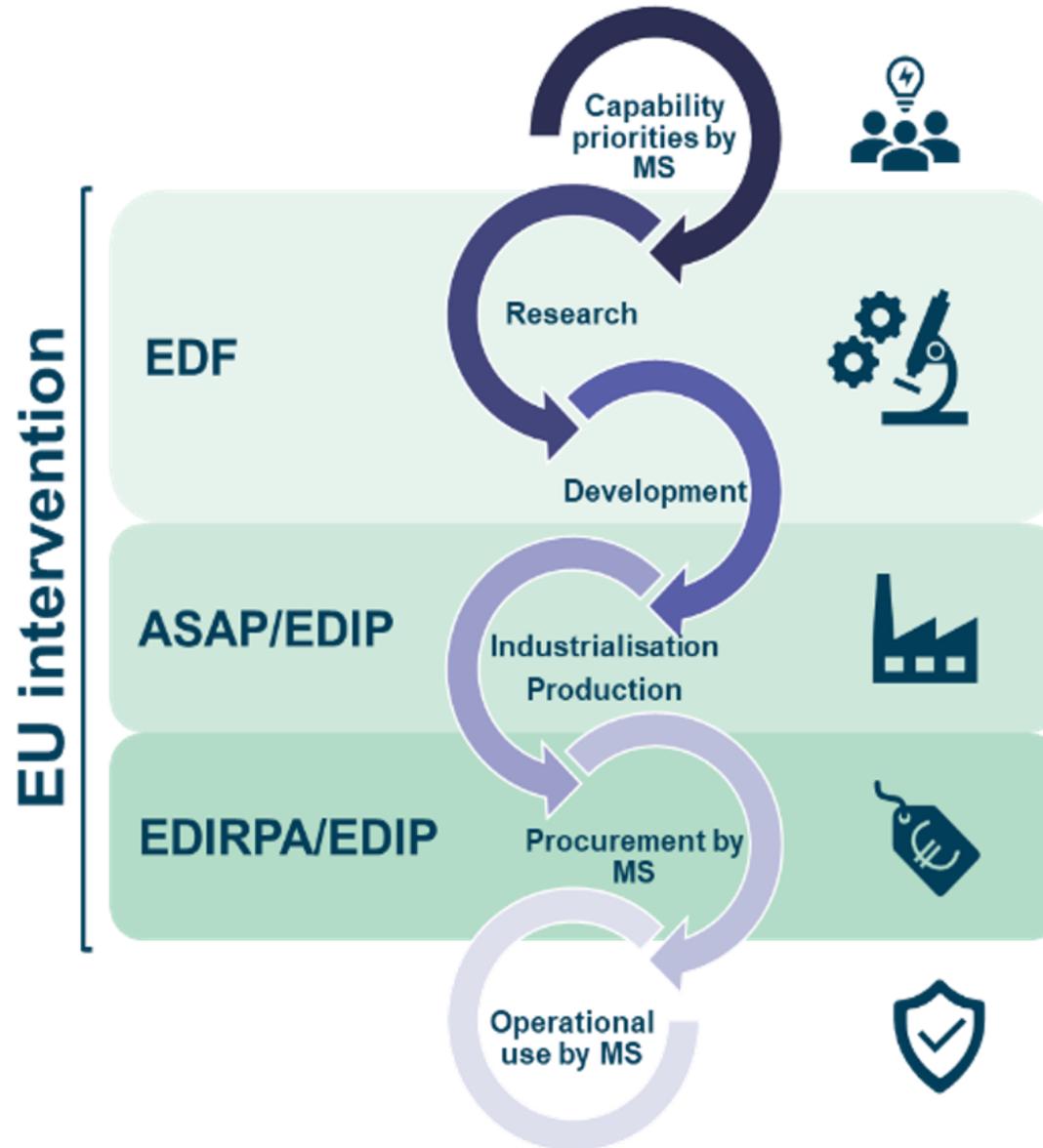
Only 9% of research and technology in the field of defence is conducted in cooperation between Member States.



No EU defence company in TOP 10

Addressing the problem: **the logic of EU intervention**

‘Downstream integration’ of EU intervention logic to **foster EU cooperation throughout the full investment cycle**



Foster a thriving, **self-sustained industrial defence ecosystem** to **increase EU readiness and mitigate dependencies**

European Commission's Defence initiatives



**R
&
D**

Preparatory Action for Defence Research (PADR) - EUR 90 million

18 projects

European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) – EUR 500 million

44 projects

European Defence Fund (EDF) – EUR 7,3 billion

- Research window
- Development window

including EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS) measures

225 projects running (2021 to 2024) + WP 2025

RU unprovoked aggression of UA



Regulation on Supporting Ammunition Production (ASAP) – EUR 500 million

31 projects (1 terminated)

Instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA) – EUR 300 million

5 projects running

European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) – EUR 1,5 billion

- Industrial reinforcement
- Common procurement
- UA support
- Common interest projects
- Regulatory measures (security of supply, internal market)

European competitiveness fund (ECF):
Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space

EUR 131 billion

Ramp-up of production capacities

Support to common procurement of defence products

Other communications and initiatives

EU Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS)

White Paper + Readiness 2030

- “Security Action for Europe” (SAFE)
- National Escape Clauses (NECs) of the Stability and Growth Pact
- Simplification measures

Slovenia & EU defence

Proposal level

40.51%

% Call success rate

111

Total N of applicants

51

N of applicants in the MAIN list

45.95%

% MS success rate

Implementation level

34

No of Projects involved

€ 30,964,179

Sum of EU Grant

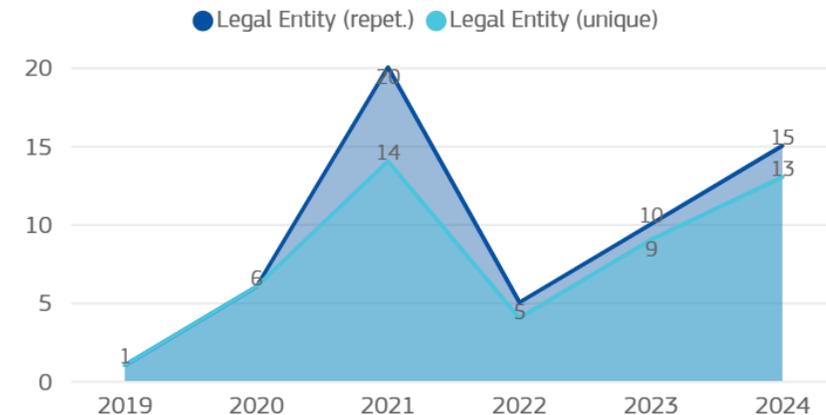
28

No of Unique participants

57

No of Participations

Participants per Year



European Commission's Defence initiatives



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#EUDefenceIndustry
#EDFInfoDays

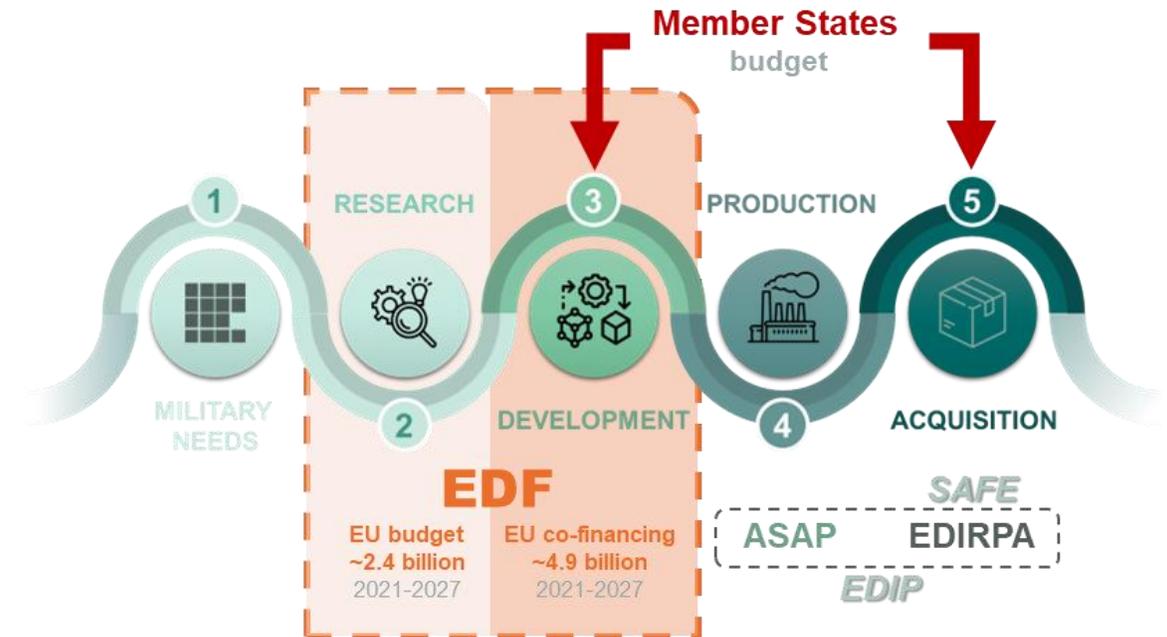
FYI: European Defence Industry Programme

- Main Goals: Strengthen the European Defence Industry, more joint procurement between MS
- Entered into force on 16/12/2025
- Main components:
 - **Industrial Reinforcement Actions** → Grants to build up production capacity in select areas
 - **Common Procurement Actions** → Grants for MS to procure jointly
 - Ukraine Support Instrument → IRA, CPA, and SA-type activities with UA eligible
 - **European Defence Projects of Common Interest** → Grants for strategic European defence projects
 - **Structures for European Armament Programmes** → Legal construct to allow MS to create European defence organisations
 - **Supporting Actions** → Grants for a bouquet of supportive measures (increase interoperability, SME support, support for new talents,...)
 - Fund to Accelerate Supply Chain Transformation → Debt or equity support to accelerate investment in SME's production capacities
 - and more...!
- Implementation under discussion with Member States

EDF: The EU defence R&D programme

Goals of the European Defence Fund:

- Support collaborative and cross-border **Research & Development**, incl. disruptive technologies
- Contribute to the **competitiveness and innovation capacity** of the EDTIB
- Encourage the participation of **SMEs** and other actors not usually active in the defence field
- Help **reducing fragmentation**
- Help building partnerships
- Help maximising the outcome of defence spending
- Contribute to close defence technological shortfalls
- Strengthen other security and defence initiatives
- Strengthen Europe's resilience and **strategic autonomy**



European Defence Fund: a successful catalyst of cross-border industrial cooperation in defence R&D

€6.4 billion already committed for cooperative defence R&D

EU now in Top 3 biggest defence R&D investor in Europe

+/- 200 ongoing R&D projects High-level of inclusiveness

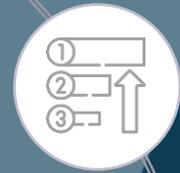
*>1.300 unique beneficiaries from all parts of the EU
43% of participants are SMEs*

Real cooperative dimension

On average, 19 entities from 8 MS and Norway involved in an EDF project

Growing attractiveness

*(Record) 410 proposals submitted under 2025 calls (+ 37%)
Significant increase under non-thematic SMEs and disruptive technologies calls*



EDF-funded actions in line with EU's capability priorities



Key next-generation defence capabilities supported

e.g. UxVs, navy vessels, armoured vehicles, air combat & transport capabilities, air missile defence, space



~20% of the EDF budget implemented under EU Defence Innovation Scheme

with novel measures to support defence R&D in innovative way and attract new & small players



First concrete products and systems already used by armed forces

e.g. counter naval mine solutions, unmanned ground vehicles



Part of comprehensive EU strategy to boost defence investment

with ASAP and EDIRPA, and new EDIP

General principles governing EDF implementation

Prioritisation

Demand driven by Member States
(sole buyers and users)

Priorities and topics defined by Member States

Output oriented

Strategic and economic benefits for EU

Tangible results ready to be procured for EU armed forces

Eligibility conditions apply

Synergy & Consistency

EU prioritisation instruments

Other EU defence initiatives

NATO

Other EU programmes

Ensure continuity

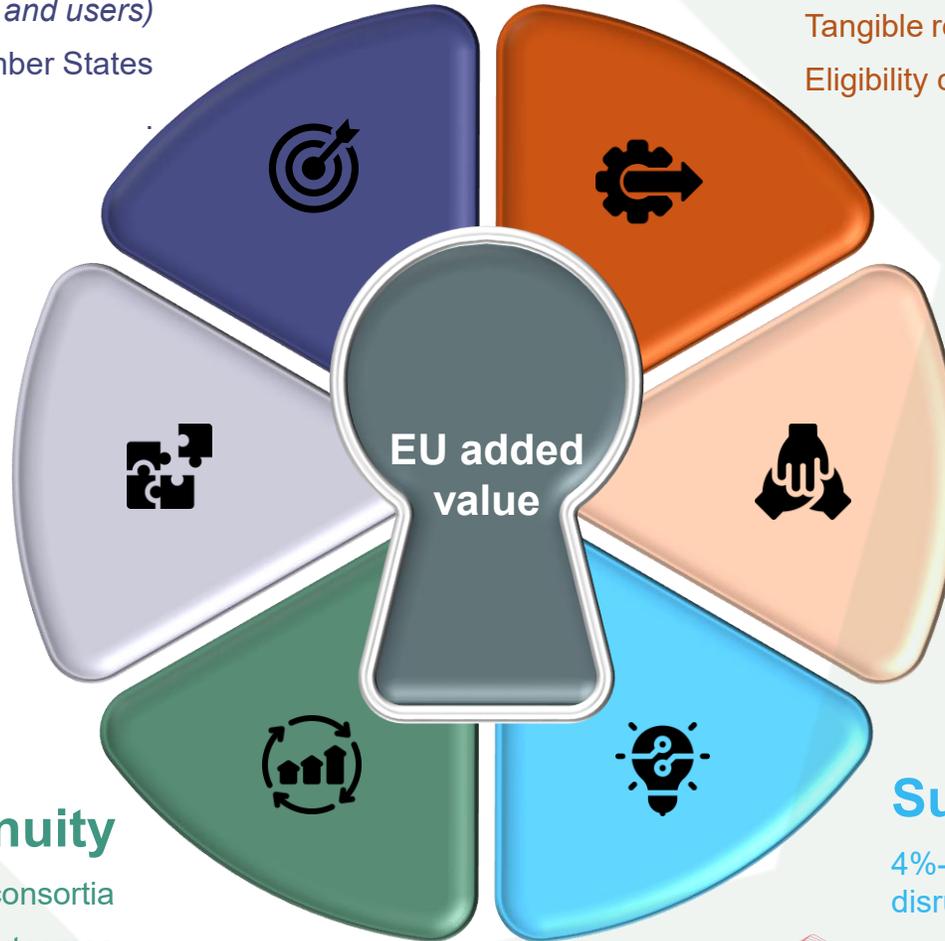
Already funded actions/consortia

Main expected outcomes
(EDF multiannual perspective)

Support innovation

4%-8% of the EDF budget dedicated to disruptive technologies

Support broader EU defence innovation scheme (EUDIS)



Inclusiveness

Fair opportunities for companies:

- of all sizes
- from all Member States and Norway
- Security-based conditions for entities controlled by third-countries

Eligibility conditions

- Consortia: at least 3 eligible entities from 3 different MS/Norway (2 for disruptive call)

Natural persons are NOT eligible!

- Recipients & main subcontractors + Infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources for the action located in EU or Norway

Derogation possible if no competitive substitute available in EU/Norway. Entities established in 3rd countries can be associated if security-specific conditions are met, but no EDF financial support

- Recipients and main subcontractors not subject to control by 3rd country/entity

Derogation possible if approved security-specific guarantees can be provided

- No restriction nor control by 3rd country/entity on results

- Compliance with international law and high ethics standards

+ specific to development actions

- Co-financing where EDF funding not covering 100% of eligible costs

- Harmonised defence capability requirements jointly agreed by at least 2 MS/NO for design

- Intention to procure & common technical specifications for system prototyping and/or downstream activities

Flexibility offered in specific cases for confirmation of requirements or specifications

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Eligibility of entities (1/3)



Not subject
to control

Beneficiaries, affiliated entities and subcontractors not to be subject to **control** by a non-associated third country or by a non-associated third-country entity

Control?

Ability to exercise **decisive influence** on an entity, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediate entities

Decisive
influence?

Possibility to **influence strategic business decisions** of the entity, *de jure* or *de facto*:

- Appointment and removal of senior management
- Budget
- Investment business plan
- Market-specific decisions



01 Ownership Control Declaration (OCD)

- **Self-declaration**
- **Mandatory** at submission stage (except public bodies, validated as such in the Funding & Tenders Portal)
- Applicants must **tick one of the boxes** “EU controlled”, “non-EU controlled”, “no change”
- Possibility to submit supporting documents with your self-declaration

02 Ownership Control Assessment (OCA)

- Based on the OCD, an OCA is performed during GAP by the Central Validation Service (CVS) **for new participants and participants whose OCA is older than 36 months**
- Concerned entities to **provide all relevant information and all requested supporting documents** regarding their control status to CVS



NEW! Guidance - Participation in EU calls with ownership and control restrictions

Eligibility of entities (3/3)



OCD/OCA = non-EU controlled

→ **Guarantees** mandatory for the concerned entities, requested by DG DEFIS

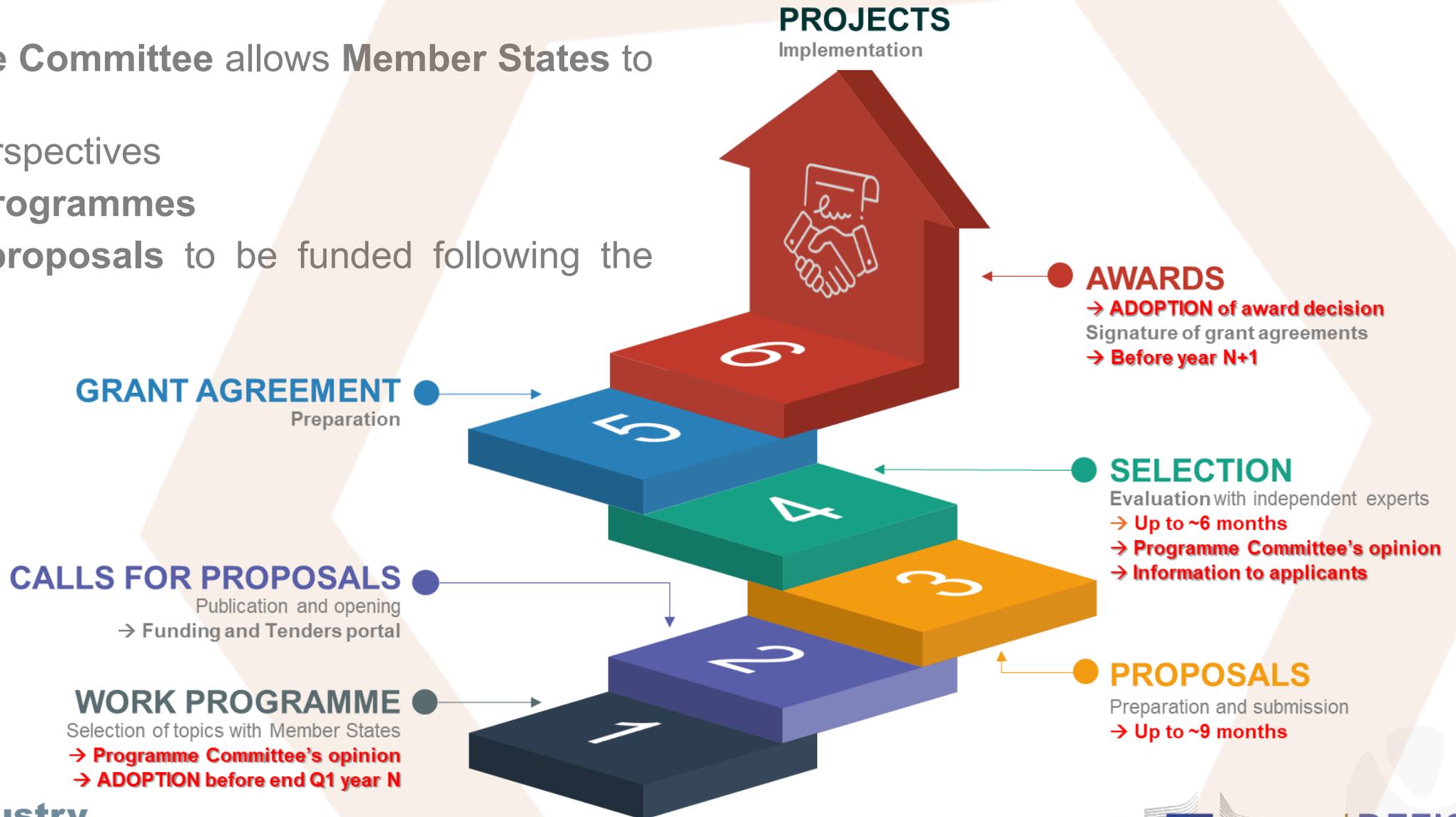
- Guarantees must substantiate **measures ensuring that the participation of the entity** does **not contravene the security and defence interests** of the Union and its Member States:
 - No risk in the ability to perform the action, no restrictions due to control
 - Sensitive information not accessible to ineligible third country/entities
 - No transfer of results
- Guarantees must be **approved by the country of establishment** of the concerned entity
- Approved guarantees to be submitted **for each EDF project**



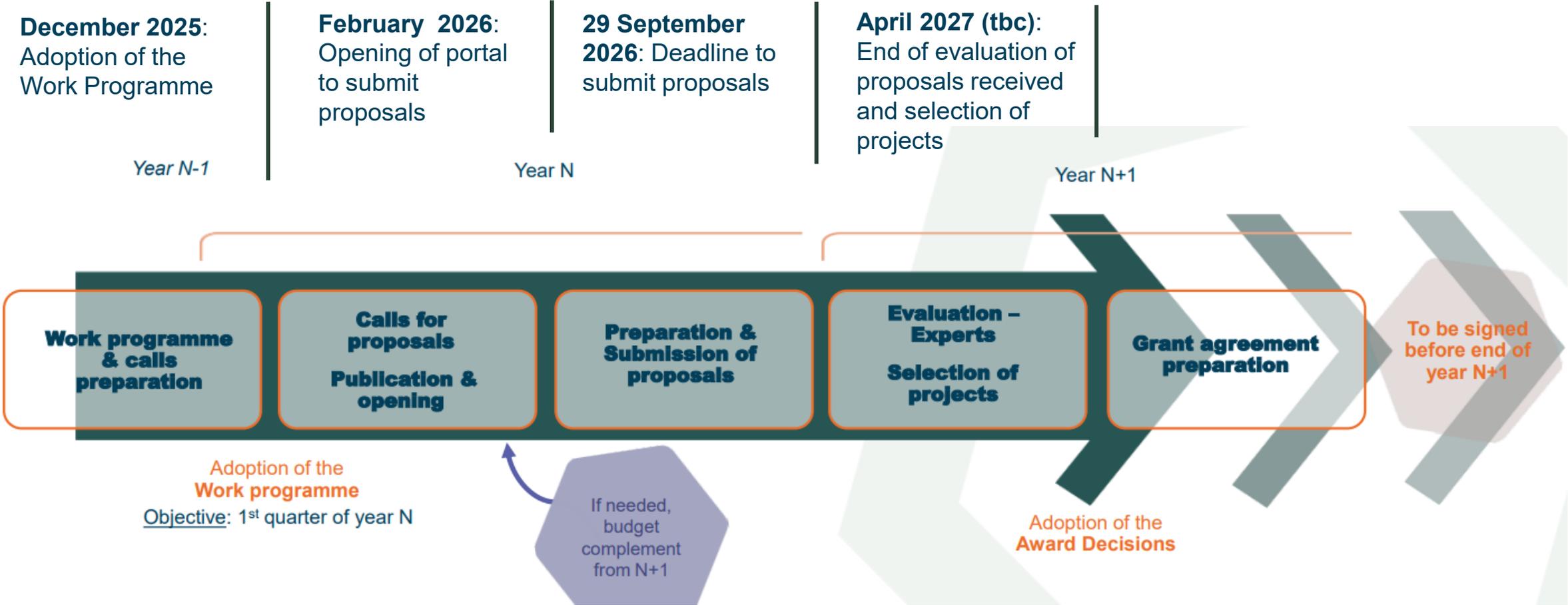
EDF Life-cycle

EDF Programme Committee allows Member States to influence

- multiannual perspectives
- annual work programmes
- **selection of proposals** to be funded following the calls



Project launch timeline (ex. EDF26)



N.B. for reference – Multiannual Planning document

What's new compared to EDF 2025?

- New type of call (LS-DIS) targeting fast innovation (12-24 months targeting TRL-4 or above) with smaller consortia (2).
- Cascade approach for evaluation and short proposal format for SMERO and LS-DIS.
- FSTP generalised to all call topics.
- All topics (except two) of relevance for STEP, allowing to get access to STEP Seal.
- Ukraine associated to the EDF (pending signature of association agreement).

EDF Categories of Actions

Addressed by annual work programmes & calls for proposals



-  **Medical response, CBRN & human factors**
-  **Information superiority**
-  **Sensors**
-  **Cyber**
-  **Space**
-  **Digital transformation**
-  **Energy resilience & environmental transition**
-  **Materials and components**

-  **Air combat**
-  **Air and Missile defence**
-  **Ground combat**
-  **Force protection and mobility**
-  **Naval combat**
-  **Underwater warfare**
-  **Simulation and training**



Horizontal categories

-  **Disruptive technologies**
-  **Innovative defence technologies (SMEs)**



2026 EDF Work Programme: Overview of 1 b. EUR

31 topics

Calls to open for submission soon

Deadline for submission: 29 September 2026 17:00 CET

	Medical Response & CBRN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures 6.5 M€ SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures 18.5 M€ CBRN decontamination systems and technologies 15 M€ 		Air combat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air-to-air refuelling 20 M€ Self-protection systems 24 M€ Smart Technologies for fighter systems 25 M€
	Not addressed in 2026		Air & missile defence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countering HGV (direct award) 68 M€ Endo-atmospheric interceptor 100 M€
	Sensors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multidomain sensors demonstrator 20 M€ Enhanced Cognitive EW 24 M€ 		Ground combat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple rocket launcher system 25 M€ Main battle tank 125 M€
	Cyber <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantum secured networks 14 M€ 		Protection & Mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future multirole light aircraft 15 M€ Secure digital military mobility system 9 M€
	Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRS receivers/NAVWAR 50 M€ 		Naval combat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium-size semi-autonomous surface vessel 90 M€
	Digital transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI-based tactical situational awareness (challenge) 30 M€ Multi-domain operations cloud 40 M€ Turbofan engine (spin-in) 20 M€ High-performance energy 20 M€ Ammunition waste collection and 10 M€ 		Underwater warfare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow-related underwater noise 10 M€ Critical seabed infrastructure protection (spin-in) 30 M€
	Energy & Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbofan engine (spin-in) 20 M€ High-performance energy 20 M€ Ammunition waste collection and 10 M€ 		Simulation & training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M&S AI framework 16 M€
	Materials & Components <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart and multifunctional textiles 20 M€ 		Disruptive technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over-the-horizon radar 29 M€ DIS action 27 M€
	Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other actions (outreach, IT, studies, audit, IM, matchmaking) 10.6M€ Business coaching for SMEs 1.8 M€ Equity funding for SMEs/Mid-Caps 20 M€ Business accelerating services 6.2 M€ EDF hackathon events 1.3 M€ 		SMEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research for SMEs and ROs 35 M€ Non-thematic development for SMEs 30 M€

Legend: Research Development EUDIS-related

EDF funding rates and bonus system

Research vs Development

Research actions

Activity type	EU funding rate
Generating knowledge	100%
Integrating knowledge	100%
Studies	100%
Design	100%

Development actions

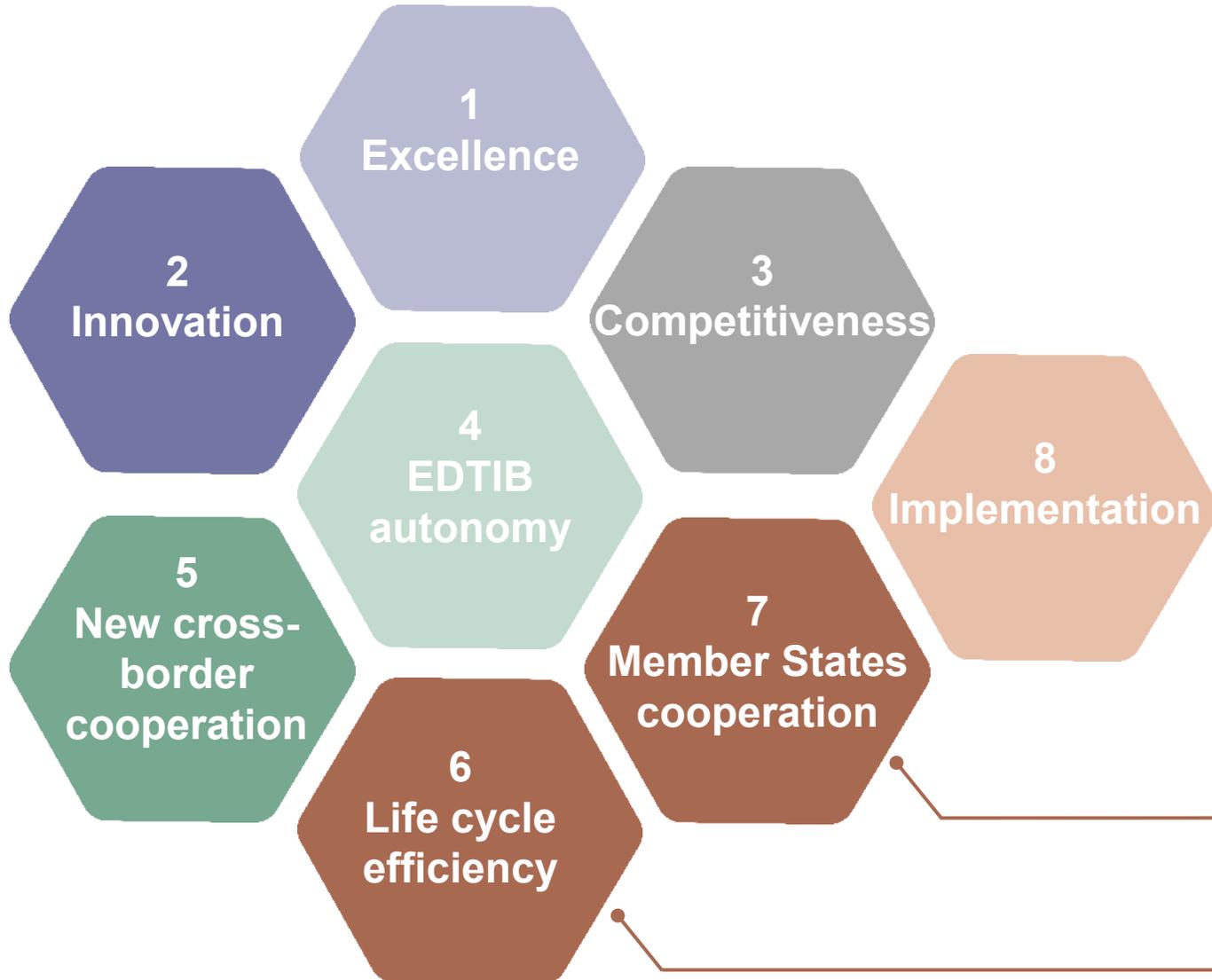
Activity type	EU baseline funding rate	EU maximum funding rate
Integrating knowledge	65%	100%
Studies	90%	100%
Design	65%	100%
Prototyping	20%	55%
Testing	45%	80%
Qualification	70%	80%
Certification	70%	80%
Increasing efficiency	65%	100%



Condition for application of the bonus	Value of the bonus
PESCO Bonus	
Action developed in context of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)*	+10% for all activities in the action
'Mid-cap' bonus	
% eligible costs allocated to 'Midcaps' established in the EU (and NO) ≥ 15%	+10% for the activity
SME Bonus	
% eligible costs allocated to 'SMEs' established in the EU (and NO) ≥ 10%	% of eligible costs allocated to ' non cross-border SMEs ' established in the EU and NO (maximum 5%) + 2 x % of eligible costs allocated to ' cross-border SMEs ' established in the EU and NO

Funding rate mechanism (incl. bonus) to **incentivise** participation of **SMEs** and **mid-caps**, synergies with **PESCO** and **co-financing** (leverage effect)

Award Criteria



Standard EDF Calls (R&D)

Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 apply

New in 2026 – DIS calls (LS-DIS-NT & SMERO)

- Only three criteria apply (1,2 and 8)
- Proposals are shorter (100 vs 50 pages)
- call opens in April 2026
- closing date remains the same

Scoring of proposals

- Each criterion scored from 0 to 5 (half points allowed)
- **For Research:** 1, 2 and 5 count double
- **For Development:** 1, 4 and 5 count double

Criteria 6 & 7 only applicable to Development calls

Inclusion of Ukraine

- Mini-omnibus defines **Ukraine as associate to EDF**, however agreement still pending.
- EU-UA defence R&D cooperation already possible (e.g. BraveTechEU bootcamps) **BUT** currently **only EU and EDF associated countries can receive EDF funding support**.
- **Entities established in Ukraine may:**
 - be involved as third parties in EDF projects where **financial support to third parties** is envisaged,
 - be **suppliers of goods, works or services** (without being a core task of the EDF projects),
 - cooperate in EDF projects as associated partners without funding under the conditions established by Article 9(6) of EDF Regulation.
- Entities established in the Union or in an associated country, but subject to control by Ukraine or by a UA entity can be involved as recipients or subcontractors involved in the action in EDF projects, **only if guarantees approved by the Member State or the associated country** in which there are established (in accordance with its national procedures) are made available to the Commission.

Benefits of involving Ukrainian entities



- Minimal feedback loop from the battlefield (24h)
- Fast pace of innovation cycle
- Focus on development, prototyping and testing
- Very wide range of expertise
- Capability to innovate and adapt dual-use
- and COTS equipment
- Use of modern technology with mass effect



How to find partners from Ukraine?



Clusters



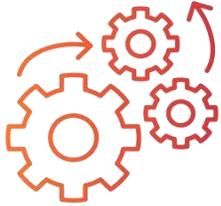
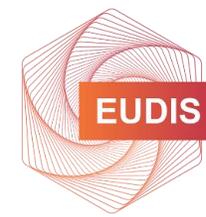
ASD Connect



1. Scan the QR Code
2. Register your company
3. Start connecting!



EU Defence Innovation Scheme



EDF R&D GRANTS AND BUSINESS COACHING

- SME calls, Technological challenges, Spin-in calls, Calls with acceleration services for startups, Disruptive tech calls
- SME Business Coaching



DEFENCE HACKATHONS/MAKEATHONS

- Held across Europe multiple times a year
- Funding for local hosts
- Mentoring programme for winning teams
- Open to UA participants



DEFENCE EQUITY FACILITY

- €175 million, implemented by EIF
- For private funds to invest in defence and dual-use companies



BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

- Acceleration programme for start-ups and scale-ups
- Two calls annually to select 20 companies per cohort
- € 120 000 voucher



MATCHMAKING EVENTS

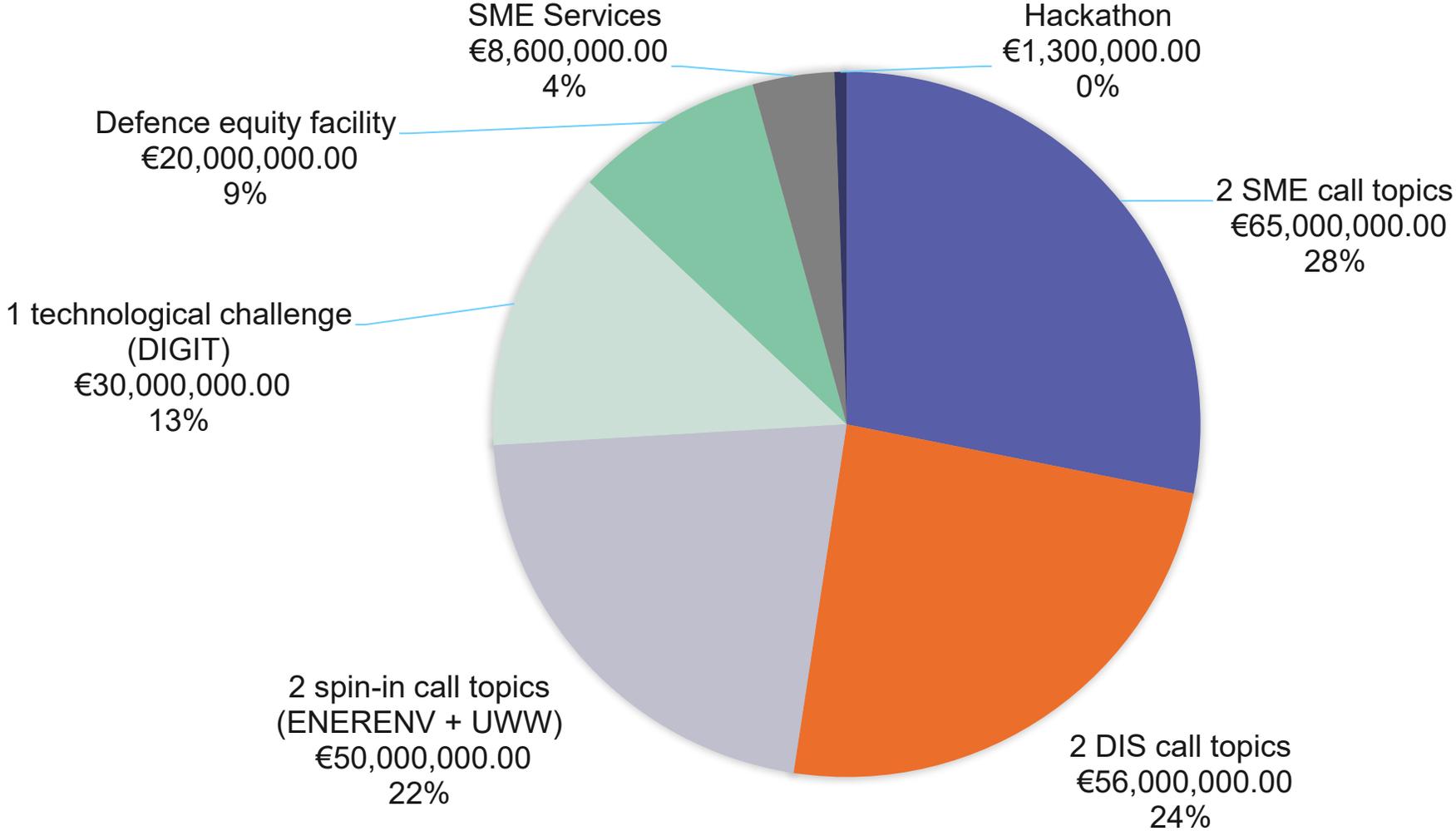
- Onsite and online events for innovators and investors
- Continuously open call
- Open to UA entities



TECH FORGES and TESTING & VALIDATION (2026)

- Under BraveTech EU initiative to support rapid development, testing, and deployment of battlefield-proven technologies.
- Vouchers for iterative development

EDF 2026: EUDIS



230.9 M€ in total
201 M€ (87%)
dedicated to R&D
grants



EUDIS Focus: R&D Grants

Non-thematic/open calls for SMEs

- Supports SMEs developing innovative defence solutions
- Consortium: Δ Δ Δ
- For: SMEs only (+RTO for research projects)
- Research (TRL 4) and development actions
- **STEP technologies**
- Funding:
 - 5-6 M€
 - 20% -> 100% costs

Disruptive Tech calls

- Supports cutting-edge, high-risk/high-impact research projects
- Consortium: Δ Δ
- For: SMEs, mid-caps, large companies, RTOs.
- **Mixed non-thematic:** (3 M € pp; TRL 4)
- Development: **New abilities in the over-the-horizon sensing (29 M €)**
- Funding:
 - 20-100% costs

Technological challenge

- Provides common testing environment to several R&D teams
- Consortium: Δ Δ Δ
- For: SMEs, mid-caps, large companies, RTOs
- Research actions
 - **AI-based tactical situational awareness using swarms of small robots and drones**
- Funding:
 - Several consortiums
 - 100% costs
 - **Organisation: 7 M €**
 - **Participation: 4,6 M € pp**

Spin-in calls from civil to defence

- Helps spinning-in civil R&D to defence
- Consortium: Δ Δ Δ
- For: SMEs, mid-caps, large companies, RTOs.
- Research actions
 - **New turbofan engine (20 M € pp)**
 - **Layered critical seabed infrastructure protection (15 M € pp)**
- Funding:
 - 100% costs



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 - 100% costs

Simplifications in DIS-NT and SMERO calls

EDF
INFO
DAYS20
26

- 50% reduction of award criteria
- Shorter application form
- Same deadlines as other calls

**STREAMLINED
APPLICATION
PROCESS**

Three orange chevrons pointing left, indicating a transition or flow from the streamlined process to faster uptake.

**FASTER
UPTAKE**

Three orange chevrons pointing right, indicating a transition or flow from faster uptake to the outcomes listed below.

- More projects to be funded
- Shorter project duration
- Up to 100% funding rate even for higher TRLs

Title	Budget	Scope and mandatory activities	Evaluation
<p>Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations</p>	<p>35 M€ total 5 M€/project 12-36 months</p>	<p><i>Proposals must address disruptive knowledge, products and technologies in any area of defence interest reaching at least TRL 4.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>At least one of: generating knowledge, integrating knowledge, studies and design</i></p> <p><i>Other activities not eligible</i></p>	<p>Excellence, Innovation and Implementation (Criteria 1, 2 and 6)</p>

Eligibility:

- **Only SMEs and Research Organisations** as beneficiaries and affiliated entities
- Budget allocated to Research Organisations **cannot exceed 40%**
- The **coordinator has to be an SME**
- **At least 3 entities from at least 3 Member States**

Tutorial for SME and Mid-cap assessment available on our [EDF webpage](#)





EDF-2026-LS-DIS-NT



Title	Budget	Scope and mandatory activities	Evaluation
<p>Non-thematic actions targeting disruptive technologies for defence</p>	<p>27 M€ total 3 M€/project 12-24 months</p>	<p><i>Proposals must address disruptive knowledge, products and technologies in any area of defence interest reaching at least TRL 4.</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>The following combination of activities: (generating knowledge or integrating knowledge) combined with (design or increasing efficiency).</i></p> <p><i>Studies optional, other activities not eligible.</i></p>	<p>Excellence, Innovation and Implementation (Criteria 1, 2 and 6)</p>

Eligibility:

- **All types of entities eligible**
- Proposals must have the following essential characteristics:
 - Disruptive impact in a defence context:
 - Radical vision
 - Clear output orientation
- **At least 2 entities from at least 2 Member States**



Scoring and weighting for DIS-NT and SMERO calls



Scoring according to a predefined scale:
each criterion scored from 0 to 5 (half points allowed)



Sub-set of criteria

Criterion	Minimum pass score	Maximum score	Weighting
1 – Excellence	4	5	2
2 – Innovation	3.5	5	2
3 – Implementation	n/a	5	1
Overall weighted pass score	18	25	n/a

- **Selection of award criteria** and their application specified in WP and call conditions adapted accordingly
- **Evaluation procedure** through **step-wise approach**: proposals must pass the **threshold for each award criterion before being evaluated against the next one**



Scoring and weighting for the other calls



Scoring according to a predefined scale:
each criterion scored from 0 to 5 (half points allowed)



Weighting

Criterion	Research	Development
1 – Excellence	2	2
2 – Innovation	2	1
3 – Competitiveness	1	1
4 – EDTIB autonomy	1	2
5 – New cross border cooperation	2	2
6 – <i>Life cycle efficiency</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	1
7 – <i>MS cooperation</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	1
6/8 – Implementation	1	1
Min. pass score/ max. score	30/45	37/55

No threshold for individual criterion





EUDIS Focus: Short-Term Support

Coaching Service for SMEs

- Helps addressing business challenges to support companies' growth
- Participant: Δ
- For: Any SME participating in an EDF project
- Support: up to 15 days of expert coaching over 6 months

Always available in the first year of participation to project

#EUDefenceIndustry
#EDFInfoDays

Defence Hackathons

- Supports emerging teams addressing defence challenges
- Team: Δ
- For: individuals, SMEs
- Min. 2 per year, in several locations simultaneously
- Open to UA
- **Defending airspace: 26-28 March**
- Funding & support:
Wining team receives:
 - Mentoring program
 - Monetary prize

Deadline for participants: **20 March 2026**

Call for organizers for Autumn edition in
April

Business Accelerator

- Training & coaching programme
- Participant: Δ
- For: Start-ups, scale-ups
- 2 cohorts per year
- 20 companies per cohort
- Funding & support:
 - € 120 000 voucher
 - + € 50 000 top 3
 - Demo-Day

Next call: **late April**

Call for board members
(industry, military, investors):
6 April



EUDIS Focus: Access to Equity Financing

Matchmaking service

- Connects companies with potential investors
- Participant : Δ
- For: SMEs, small mid-caps, corporates, investors, end-users
- Open to UA

Support :

- On-site & online matchmaking & capacity building events
- Matchmaking platform
- Individual matchmaking plan

Continuous call for application

Defence Equity Facility

- Provides finance to private funds investing in defence technologies
- Participant : Δ
- For: venture capital, private equity, private debt funds
- €175 million funding available (2024-2027)

Support :

- Investments by the **European Investment Fund (EIF)** as Limited Partner
- On average 25% of total fund size
- No minimum / maximum € per fund

Continuous call for application

Private Funds Supported

KEEN

Project A

Sienna
INVESTMENT MANAGERS

MNES

day1

and more to come in 2026...



Upcoming initiatives in 2026...



Defence Equity Facility 2.0

INVESTORS

€1b

Fund-of-Funds
launching soon

Growth capital for defence
related innovative SMEs and
scale-ups

With the EIB/EIF + public
investors

Deployment to start in 2026



AGILE

INNOVATORS

New pilot instrument

(Proposal in Q1 2026)

Support of defence innovation – tech
development + market uptake

Deployment of game-changing solutions
for armed forces

Key features: **speed, responsiveness,
risk-taking & flexibility**

Adoption expected in 2026

Scheduled to start in early 2027

+ Opportunities for defence and dual-use
innovators under **European Innovation Council!**
[as of May 2026]

#EUDefenceIndustry





EUDIS Focus: Cascade Funding (FSTP)

- **Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) or Cascade Funding** gives **easier access to EU funding** for **smaller players and newcomers** that can provide innovative technologies or specialized knowledge. This allows them to identify and increase business opportunities in the defence sector.
- It is implemented through **sub-calls within a given project**.
 - Sub-calls are organized and managed by the consortium that has won the specific call.
 - Min. 2 sub-calls with at least 3 recipients per sub-call.
 - Each recipient receives **up to 60.000 €** and **up to 6-months collaboration programme**.
 - Eligible recipients must be established in Member States, Norway or Ukraine.
 - **Unique possibility for Ukrainian entities** to receive funding while contributing highly valued know-how.
- **EDF Work Programme 2026** introduces **FSTP** as **optional in any of the projects** (decided at proposal level).



EUDIS Focus: Benefits of FSTP



Third parties

- Faster & lighter access to funding
- Lower administrative burden
- Reduced financial risk
- Faster innovation cycles
- Entry into defence ecosystem

Consortium

- Technology scouting and access to niche innovation
- Risk distribution
- Increasing ecosystem influence
- TRL acceleration



EUDIS Focus: FSTP through Work Programmes

WP 2023

- **EDF-2023-DA-MATCOMP-MJR-CBDIN:** Technologies and processes for maintenance, joining and repair through an innovation test hub
- **Project MAJOR**
- **FSTP budget**
- max. 12% of the EU contribution
- Max. 60 k EUR per third party
- **Implementation**
- Max. 2 sub-calls
- 10-30 recipients per sub-call
- Max. 6 month acceleration programme
- **Sub-calls currently open**

WP 2024

- **EDF-2024-RA-SIMTRAIN-BRG-STEP:** Methods for bridging reality gaps
- **Project BATTLEVERSE**
- **FSTP budget**
- max. 16% of the EU contribution
- Max. 60 k EUR per third party
- **Implementation**
- Max. 2 sub-calls
- 10-20 recipients per sub-call

WP 2025

- **EDF-2025-DA-PROTMOB-SS:** Full-size demonstrators for next generation soldier systems
- **EDF-2025-DA-SI-GROUND-DAMM:** Drone-based affordable mass munitions
- **FSTP budget**
- max. 3,43% / 6,12% of the EU contribution
- Max. 60 k EUR per third party
- **Implementation**
- Max. 2 sub-calls / min. 1 sub-call
- 5-10 / 3-10 recipients per sub-call
- Max. 6 month acceleration programme

WP 2026

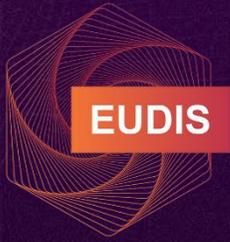
- **Optional in all calls**
- Decided at proposal level
- **FSTP budget**
- max. 5% of the EU contribution
- Max. 60 k EUR per third party
- **Implementation**
- Min. 2 sub-calls
- Min. 3 recipients per sub-call
- Max. 6 month acceleration programme



EUDIS Focus: FSTP & Project MaJoR

MaJoR project (EDF WP 2023)

- Developing innovative technologies for **Maintenance, Joining and Repair** of multi-material structures (air, sea and land)
- Now opened its first FSTP sub-call ever!
- **Opening of the sub-call: 28 January - 25 March 2026**
- Looking for **up to 30 innovators** to act as technology/solution providers, addressing **5 specific innovation challenges** across the three domains:
 1. Hybrid Structures for Defence Platforms: Multi-Material Design, Joining & Reversible Interfaces
 2. Innovative Joining Technologies & Processes for Multi-Material Defence Structures
 3. Structural Health Monitoring, Health and Usage Monitoring System & Embedded Sensor Architectures for Next-Generation Defence Platform
 4. Non-Destructive Testing for Bonded Joints – Maintenance, Repair, Bonding Initial Design & Diagnostics for Hybrid and Composite Structures
 5. Digitalisation, AI & Decision Support Tools for Structural Assessment and Defence Maintenance



More to come in 2026

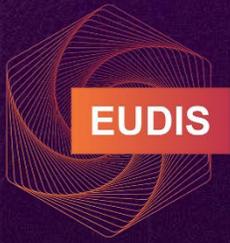


EIC Accelerator:

- Direct equity, grants, blended finance for dual-use technologies
- Step Scale-Up Scheme: equity financing for SMEs/small mid-caps with focus on defence

Defence Industry Transformation Roadmap: to fully unleash the potential of disruptive innovation

- Supporting the full investment journey of defence companies (€1 billion defence fund-of-funds)
- Boosting time-to-market of defence products (new funding instrument AGILE)
- More efficient defence procurement regulation (revision of Defence Procurement Directive)
- Generating defence skills and talent (Defence Talent Platform)



Connect with EUDIS

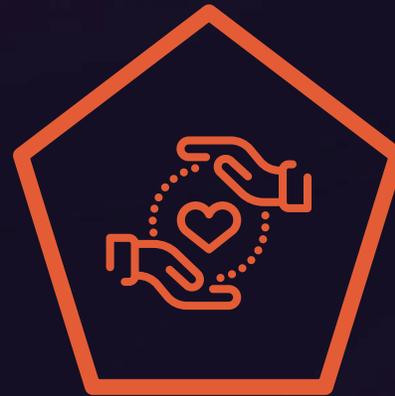


Early-stage founders

- Hackathons (no requirement to have a company)
- Defence Tech Forges & Testing (upcoming)
- Business Accelerator (start-up)
- Matchmaking

Private Investors

- Defence Equity Facility (EIF)
- Matchmaking



Late-stage founders

- Business accelerator (scale-up)
- EDF R&D calls
- Matchmaking
- Defence Tech Forges & Testing (upcoming)

Universities & Accelerators

- Hosting Hackathon
- Hosting Defence Tech Forge (upcoming)
- EDF R&D calls



Coaches & Trainers

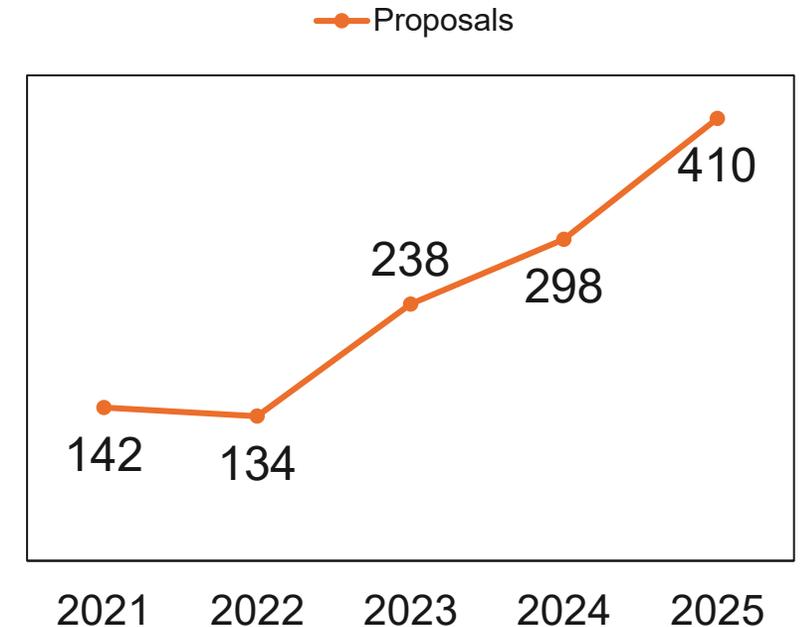
- SME Business Coaching for companies in EDF projects
- Business Accelerator Trainers and Experts

EDF 2025: State of Play

Key facts

- **Significant interest by the EU industry (2024 → 2025: +39%)**
- High interest in **non-thematic topics dedicated to SMEs** and to disruptive technologies (70% of all proposals in these 3 topics only)
- SMEs make up 58% of all participations
- SMEs 43% of the total requested grant amount
- 46% of all SME participations in the dedicated SME calls

Proposal Numbers by Year



EDF 2026: How To Apply

- **Download and read the official documents!**
 - What: Objectives, Scope, Requirements,...
 - Who: Eligibility
 - How much: Funding rates
- **Watch our tutorials & check our website!**
- Decide: What do you want to apply for (Call/Topic)
- Register your entity in the Funding & Tenders portal
- **SME or Mid-cap? → Complete the self-assessment**
- **Choose your role** (coordinator, partner, subcontractor, ...) & **find partners**
- Start drafting your proposal early
- **Security clearance** needed for some calls
- **Contact your National Focal Point for help**

More Questions?



**Watch our
dedicated tutorials!**

EDF 2026: Tutorials

Financial aspects

- Type of grants – funding options
- Payment scheme
- EDF funding rates
- Co-financing declaration
- Cost categories and eligible costs
- Actual indirect costs methodology declaration
- Detailed budget tables updated with co-financing

Other aspects

- Selection criteria
- Award criteria
- Submission process
- Intra-EU transfers
- Ethics
- Grant agreement preparation
- PIC registration and validation
- SME and mid-cap assessment
- Ownership control assessment



Call for experts

- Experts assist the Commission in the assessment of the proposals submitted to the EDF 2026 calls
- Expertise in technical areas, ethics or in financial assessment of defence related activities



Useful links

EDF general information on DG DEFIS website

(where to find **annual WP** and **MAP**, info-days slides, recordings and tutorials)

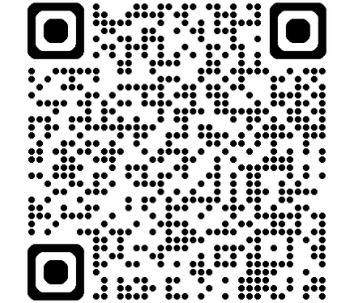


EDF Calls for proposals on the *Funding and Tenders portal*

(where to find **call documentation** and **apply**)

EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS) web page

(where to apply for **business coaching**, **business acceleration services** and access information about **all EUDIS tracks**)



Network of EDF National Focal Points (NFP)

(to support you in setting up or joining an EDF project and with the application process)

For all **other EC defence industry initiatives**
(ASAP, EDIRPA, EDIS, White paper, SAFE)





EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

MANY
THANKS
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION

ASAP - Regulation in Support of Ammunition Production: fast production capacity increase

More than €500 million EU funding

Focus on 155 mm shells supply chain and missiles

31 projects selected

Covering Explosives, Powder, Shells, Testing and Missiles

43 participations

31 companies across 15 Member States and Norway

Retroactive start

Possible eligible start from 20 March 2023

Co-funding

ASAP covers 35-45% of the costs of the project – co-funding secured from the companies and/or MS involved → Total investment exceeds 1.4 billion euros



EDIRPA: common procurement for national armed forces

First time EU budget mobilised in support of common procurement

Short-term emergency measure addressing the urgent and critical needs of the armed forces of MS/NO

First EU defence industry programme with national authorities as beneficiaries (not industry)

3 areas (calls for proposals)

Ammunition, air and missile defence, platforms

Strong interest by Member States/NO

12 proposals submitted

Solid basis for common procurement

Most Member States/Norway involved in the submitted proposals

