



Univerza v Ljubljani
Fakulteta za *družbene vede*



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OBRAMBO

FUNDING EU DEFENCE CAPABILITIES

14 September 2023 | 09:00 – 13:00

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana,
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Until a few years ago, Slovenia and its various potential stakeholders and companies were not very active in EU projects, not at all successful, nor internationally recognizable. Thanks largely in part of the conferences - amongst other activities - organised by the Slovenian Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the European Commission and the Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA), this has seen a major turnaround. In 2021, Slovenian companies involved in European Defence Fund (EDF) calls were the most successful of all EU countries.

Currently, there is a new EDF call underway, therefore our aim is to once again present the various calls, including the brand new EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS). The novelty of our conference will also be a round table discussion which, in addition to more technical explanations and guidance regarding EDF, will also give the participants a wider picture of the defence and security situation in Europe.

Programme

08:30 – 09:00 *Registration of participants*

09:00 – 09:30 **Short introductory speeches**

- **Dr. Damir Črnčec** - State Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Republic of Slovenia
- **Prof. Dr. Iztok Prezelj** – Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- **Dr. Draško Veselinovič** – President of the Management Board, Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA), Brussels
- **Dr. Liliana Brožič** - Head of the Department of Military Technology, Research and Development

09:30 – 10:30 **Presentation of the EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS) and the current European Defense Fund (EDF) calls**

- **Volker Bäcker** – European Commission, DG Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS)

Questions and answers

- 10:30 – 10:45** Short presentations of Thales Group, including their current EU defence projects, as well as cooperation with Slovenia
- *Gautier Lekens - VP International organizations (EU, NATO, UNO), Thales Group*

Questions and answers

10:45 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

- 11:00 – 11:40** Current experiences with participation in European defense projects
- *Prof. Dr. Gorazd Štumberger – Dean, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Maribor*
 - *Marko Novak – Dewesoft*
 - *Dr. Aleš Hančič – Slovenian Tool and Die Development Centre (TECOS)*

Questions and answers

11:40 – 12:45 Roundtable discussion: Future of NATO, European defence capabilities and the role of Slovenia

Moderator of roundtable:

- *Dr. Jelena Juvan - Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Participants of the roundtable:

- *Marjan Šarec – Minister for Defence, Republic of Slovenia*
- *Dr. Andrej Benedejčič - Permanent Representative of Slovenia to NATO*
- *Dr. Anton Grizold - State Secretary in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister*
- *Prof. Dr. Iztok Podbregar - Dean, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, University of Maribor*

Questions and answers

12:45 – 12:50 Closing remarks