



Mediterranean practitioners' network & capacity building for effective response to emerging security challenges



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Additional information about the project and the consortium can be found at www.medeaproject.eu

Call for Ideas and Solutions – Terms of Reference

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Contents

1	Background information on the MEDEA Project	3
1.1	Objectives of the Open Call	3
1.2	Expected results.....	3
2	Prize and Voucher amounts.....	4
3	Deadlines and admissibility.....	4
4	Participation and eligibility criteria.....	5
4.1	What should recipients / applicants do?	6
5	Procedure.....	6
6	Award Procedure and Criteria	7
6.1	Award Procedure	7
6.2	Award Criteria	7
7	Exclusion Criteria.....	8
8	Other Conditions.....	9
8.1	Applicable law and Competent Jurisdiction.....	9
8.2	Payment Arrangements	9
8.3	Publicity – Promoting the Prize – Visibility of EU funding	9
8.3.1	Publicity by the winners.....	9
8.3.2	Publicity by the MEDEA Project	10
9	Processing of Personal Data.....	10
10	Ethics.....	10
11	Intellectual Property Rights	11
12	Conflict of interest	11
13	Liability for damages.....	12
14	Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts	12
15	Obligation to provide information and keep records.....	12
16	Confidentiality.....	12
17	Communication.....	13
18	Annex documents	13

1 Background information on the MEDEA Project

The Mediterranean and Black Sea network of practitioners (MEDEA) consists of public security organizations, NGOs, Research, industry and academia representatives and security policy makers. Within the network there are four TCPs.

- TCP1: Management of Migration Flows and Asylum seekers.
- TCP2: Border management and Surveillance.
- TCP3: Cross border organized crime and terrorism.
- TCP4: Natural hazards and technological accidents.

These TCPs are responsible for fostering and promoting collaboration among their members, focusing on respective theme areas. After constructing operational scenarios, the TCPs identified capability gaps and challenges.

These capability gaps listed in MEDEA - Annex 2 – CGF were further described and documented using additional inputs from security practitioners. The MEDEA consortium with the MEDEA Open Call for Ideas and Solutions wishes to communicate identified needs to potential solution providers and security innovation pioneers, in order to provide their ideas on how to address such gaps, after having evaluated the submitted proposal.

1.1 Objectives of the Open Call

The objectives of the Open Call are:

to contribute to the establishment of safer and more secure societies in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Region, using research and innovation as a catalyst to promote collaboration between practitioners from diverse disciplines and countries and improve responses while confronting security challenges.

1.2 Expected results

With this Open Call, MEDEA aims to champion the best innovative solutions that fulfil the TCP capability gaps (<https://www.medeas-project.eu/capability-gaps/>), taking into consideration and evaluating existing solutions the state of the art.

A number of security solutions (TRL6 and above) addressing the aforementioned capability gaps will be selected by practitioners to be demonstrated in Proof-of-concept demonstration events.

A number of security proposals addressing the aforementioned capability gaps will be selected by practitioners to receive an inducement prize for

- identify new approaches or ideas and attract investments in specific security areas
- demonstrate the feasibility of potential of some technologies or promote their development and diffusion.

2 Prize and Voucher amounts

The MEDEA Project will utilise (in accordance with the relevant provisions stated in the project’s grant agreement):

- 1) A budget of **45.000 Euro** to award challenge **prizes for innovative solutions** (Up to TRL5 / TRL6) that fulfil (or will fulfil) the identified TCP capability gaps (<https://www.medeaproject.eu/capability-gaps/>). The prize awards will be defined based on the practitioners’ perceived priority and urgency to fulfil the gaps. The means to address the capability gaps will not be defined, leaving contestants total freedom to come up with the most promising and effective solutions. The MEDEA prize award will aim to attract a wider range of innovators, provide opportunities to innovators to forge new partnerships, promote new products and services and spur interest in the problem areas defined by the practitioners.
- 2) A budget of **45.000 Euro** to assist industrial and research organizations that will be invited to participate in MEDEA “hands-on demos”. A number of security solutions (TRL6 and above) addressing the aforementioned capability gaps will be selected by practitioners to be demonstrated in Proof-of-concept demonstration events. A voucher funding scheme will reimburse travelling and accommodation expenses, transportation of equipment and consumable costs bared by solution providers **with an average voucher value of 5.000 Euro per participant**.

Both the prize award and the voucher support shall respect the principles of transparency and equal treatment and shall promote the achievement of the project objectives. The amount of the prize shall not be linked to costs incurred by the winner.

All applicants in MEDEA’s “Call for Ideas and Solutions” shall be evaluated by a panel of practitioners, assisted by technology-aware MEDEA members, on the basis of the published rules of the contest. Prizes and vouchers shall then be awarded, on the basis of the evaluation provided by the panel of practitioners, who shall be free to recommend the award of prizes or vouchers, depending on their appraisal of the quality of the entries.

Prize and voucher recipients must ensure that the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) can exercise their rights under the third parties receiving a prize.

The applicants must fulfill their obligations for Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, Visibility of EU funding, and liability for damages, as described in this document.

3 Deadlines and admissibility

Deadlines	
Opening of the submission:	20 September 2021
Closing date for submission:	19 November 2021 at 23:59:59 CET

The MEDEA Call for Ideas and Solutions is opened 20 September 2021 for TCP1, TC2, TCP3 and TCP3.

The deadline for the Proposal Form submission is 19 November 2021 (**at 23:59:59 CEST**).

The Award decision will be published before end of 2021.

The following criteria result in rejection / non admissibility of the proposal from the evaluation procedure:

- a. The Proposal is not in English.
- b. One or more fields of the submitted application form are not completed.
- c. The applicant does not belong to the categories defined in §4 “Participation and eligibility criteria”.
- d. The Proposal is submitted after the deadline stated in §3 “Deadlines and admissibility”.
- e. The Proposal is submitted using other than the official Open Call for Ideas and Open call for Solution templates (described in Annex 3 - Application Form: Call for Solutions and in Annex 4 - Application Form: Call for Ideas).

4 Participation and eligibility criteria

Participation in the **MEDEA Open call for Ideas and Solutions** is open on equal terms to all types of industrial and academic organisations, regardless of their size or governance structure. The Call appeals to a wide range of innovators and provides opportunities to innovators to forge new partnerships, promote new products and services and spur interest in the problem areas as defined by the practitioners.

Participation is open to those who fall under the following categories:

- **Natural persons** and **Legal entities** established under the law of the following countries:
 - EU and EEA (European Economic Area) member states.
 - H2020 Associated Countries having signed a Bilateral Agreement with the EU on security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information.
- **Groups of economic operators of the above natural persons or legal entities.**

Joint applications by a group of participants are admitted. In this case, the participants must appoint a 'lead participant' to represent them towards MEDEA. The participants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these Rules of Contest.

In order to be eligible, the participant for the **Open Call for Ideas** and **Open Call for Solutions** must register by submitting their Proposal Form before the official deadline (see §3 “Deadlines”) through the on-line application tool (see §5 “Procedure”). Participants must present their proposal using the application template provided on on-line Call for Ideas and solutions section of the portal.

All proposals must be aligned with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid Text with EEA relevance. All participants must submit the related De Minimis declaration “**Annex 9 - Application Form: De Minimis declaration**”.

4.1 What should recipients / applicants do?

Before applying, applicants should read the Terms of Reference of the MEDEA Open call for Ideas and Solutions and assess whether they are eligible to apply. If they are, they should familiarise themselves with the procedure, and the selection, award, and exclusion criteria. They should make sure that their application does not infringe upon conflict-of-interest stipulations, and that they comply with pertinent ethical guidelines, as stated in this document.

5 Procedure

The submission and evaluation of the open call are divided into the two (2) categories:

1. **Open Call for Ideas** and
2. **Open Call for Solutions**

Proposals must be submitted using the respective applications forms of “**Annex 3 - Application Form: Call for Solutions**” or “**Annex 4 - Application Form: Call for Ideas**”. The forms can be downloaded from www.medeaproject.eu/open-call-application should be completed and then uploaded and submitted using the application form of this page.

Following the submission of the application Form by the official deadline, all submitted applications will be evaluated as described in “**Annex 5 - Evaluation Form: Call for Solutions**” and “**Annex 6 - Evaluation Form: Call for Ideas**”. The evaluation will be performed by a panel of practitioners. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to all participants by email and through the Call for Ideas and Solution section of the portal www.medeaproject.eu/Open Call Results.

Submission of separate applications falling under the two categories is permitted, following the procedure described above. Each application may address capability gaps referring to more than one TCP; in this case the evaluation committee will be evaluated following the process explained under §6.2 - Award Criteria.

All communications (relating either to the procedure or the implementation of the Call) will be carried out in the English language.

6 Award Procedure and Criteria

MEDEA Project offers prizes and vouchers to the participants that most effectively meet the defined objectives. The following award criteria provide information about what the Ideas should be capable of providing, but the means to reach the solution are not prescribed, leaving participants total freedom to come up with the most promising and effective solution.

6.1 Award Procedure

Applications will be evaluated by a panel of Evaluators selected by the MEDEA consortium, first individually (by each evaluator separately) and then as a Jury (by all evaluators together).

All submitted applications will be evaluated based on the submitted documentations and against all defined award criteria.

Upon completion of their work, the members of the panel of Evaluators shall sign an evaluation report of all the applications examined, containing an assessment of their quality.

According to MEDEA Consortium Agreement, KEMEA, as coordinator of the MEDEA Project, will declare the **award** of the **prizes** and the **vouchers** for each category and will communicate it to the winners.

6.2 Award Criteria

Based on the presentation of the innovation proposal (for the category **Open Call for Ideas**) in the RDI days, the evaluation score, and the expert's opinion of the MEDEA evaluation panel, there will be three categories of prizes for each TCP as shown in **Terms of Reference, Table 1**. The evaluation committee will also decide under which TCP a proposal will be evaluated in the case the applicants propose a solution to address capability gaps for more than one TCPs.

Terms of Reference, Table 1: Prizes				
	TCP1	TCP2	TCP3	TCP4
First Place Security proposal with expected significant impact.	€ 5 000	€ 5 000	€ 5 000	€ 5 000
Second Place Security proposal with expected high Impact.	€ 3 750	€ 3 750	€ 3 750	€ 3 750
Third place Security proposal with expected moderate impact.	€ 2 500	€ 2 500	€ 2 500	€ 2 500
	€ 11 250	€ 11 250	€ 11 250	€ 11 250

Note: taxation rules shall apply following the European and Greek legislation

Similarly, based on the presentation of the security solution (for the category Open Call for Solutions), the evaluation score, and the experts' practitioners' opinion of the MEDEA evaluation panel (assisted by technology-aware MEDEA members), there will be a short list of security solutions the practitioners would like to evaluate in proof-of-concept demonstrations in practitioners owned testbeds in France and in Greece. Based on the applicant's commitment to proceed with the demonstrations, the consortium will support part of the demonstration expenses as it is described in §1.1 - Objectives of the Open Call.

7 Exclusion Criteria

The following criteria result in exclusion of the proposal from the evaluation procedure:

- a. The applicant is subject to an administrative sanction (i.e., exclusion)¹
- b. The applicant is in one of the following situations²:
 - i. bankrupt, being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures under national law (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
 - ii. declared in breach of social security or tax obligations by a final judgment or decision (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
 - iii. found guilty of grave professional misconduct³ by a final judgment or decision (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
 - iv. convicted of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
 - v. shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under a procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision financed by the EU or Euratom budget (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
 - vi. found guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)

¹ See Articles 131(4) and 106(1) Financial Regulation.

² See Articles 138(2) and 106(1), 107 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 218, 26.10.2012, p.1).

³ Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition,

- vii. have misrepresented information required for participating in the contest or fail to submit such information
 - viii. were involved in the preparation of the prize documents and this entails a distortion of competition
- c. The applicant is not the owner/rightsholder of the IPRs on the proposed ideas/solutions.

8 Other Conditions

8.1 Applicable law and Competent Jurisdiction

This Call shall be governed and interpreted under the European Union Law, and, on a subsidiary basis, under Greek Law.

All disputes or differences arising in connection with this Agreement which cannot be settled amicably shall be finally settled by the Greek Courts competent to give judgment.

8.2 Payment Arrangements

The prize money will be paid in one instalment after the award ceremony by bank transfer provided all the requested documents have been submitted. The Vouchers will be paid by submitting cost claims using a “Reimbursement Form” that will be communicated to entitled applicants.

8.3 Publicity – Promoting the Prize – Visibility of EU funding

8.3.1 Publicity by the winners

The winners are warmly invited to promote the action and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner, in coordination with the MEDEA Project indication.

Any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) shall:

- **display the EU emblem and**
- **include the following text:**

'This action has been awarded the MEDEA Prize, with co-funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme'.

When displayed together with another logo, the EU emblem must have appropriate prominence. The winners may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

8.3.2 *Publicity by the MEDEA Project*

The MEDEA Project may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, documents notably summaries for publication and deliverables as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the winner(s) (including in electronic form).

The MEDEA Project will publish the name of the winner(s), their nationality, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose— unless the winner has requested to waive this publication (because of disclosure risks threatening its security and safety or harming its commercial interests).

Photos and videos taken by the MEDEA Project, either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony, are the sole property of the MEDEA Project.

9 Processing of Personal Data

Any personal data will be processed by the KEMEA acting as MEDEA Project Coordinator.

KEMEA shall process personal data in compliance with applicable EU Law and Greek national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements). Personal data shall be processed by respecting data subjects' rights, fundamental freedoms and dignity, particularly with regard to confidentiality, personal identity and the right to personal data protection.

The winner(s) consent that the MEDEA Project uses for the strict aims of the Call management the following information:

- ***the name***
- ***the Member State of origin*** (address or NUTS 2 region)
- ***their activities in relation to the award of the prize (via a summary for publication which they will provide)***
- ***prize, and support (vouchers) amount*** in whatever form and medium.

10 Ethics

Activities must be carried out in compliance with:

1. ***ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity — and including, in particular, avoiding fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other research misconduct)***
and
2. ***with respect to national, EU, and international law.***

This implies compliance with the following fundamental principles:

- **reliability** in ensuring the quality of research reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources,
- **honesty** in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair and unbiased way,
- **respect** toward colleagues, research participants, the society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment,
- **accountability** for the research (from idea to publication), for training, for supervision and mentoring, and for wider impacts

Participants must ensure that persons carrying out research tasks follow the good research practices described above.

The participants must ensure that their activities do not:

- a) aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- b) intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads) or
- c) intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

The participants must respect the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity⁴.

11 Intellectual Property Rights

Applicants must be the owners/rightsholders on the potential IPRs of the Ideas or Solutions.

The IPRs on the selected ideas remain with the applicants. Applicants are encouraged to partner with the IPR owners and use them in applying for new funds (National, EU Calls, etc).

12 Conflict of interest

Participants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the prize is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

- Conflict of interest covers both personal and professional conflicts. These are defined in “Annex 1 – Glossary”.
- Participants that are subject to a conflict of interest may be excluded.
- If an actual or potential conflict of interest arises at a later stage the participants who face that situation of conflict must inform the MEDEA Project without delay of any situation

⁴ European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation) of March 2017 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf.

constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

- The MEDEA Project may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.
- Applicants must fill in the relevant declaration as described in “Annex 7 - Application Form: Non - Conflict of Interest”.

13 Liability for damages

The MEDEA Project cannot be held liable for damages caused to the contestants or to third parties as a consequence of the award or implementation of the prize, including for gross negligence.

The MEDEA Project cannot be held liable for damages caused by any of the contestants, as a consequence of activities linked to the prize.

14 Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts

The MEDEA Project may withdraw the prize and the vouchers and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- i. false information or fraud or corruption was used to obtain the prize or voucher.
- ii. the winner was not eligible or should have been excluded or not complied with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity ([Allea.org: code-of-conduct](https://www.allea.org/en/code-of-conduct))

15 Obligation to provide information and keep records

The participants must, at any time during the implementation of the Call provide any information requested by the MEDEA Consortium in relation to the Call and must keep, for a period of at least 5 years after the end of the Call, records and other supporting documentation on scientific and technical implementation.

16 Confidentiality

Participants must keep confidential any information obtained in the context of the undertaken procedure (*including EU-classified information*).

All documentation, data, information, disclosed during the course of this Call:

1. are furnished for the sole purpose of replying to this Call,
2. may not be used, communicated, reproduced or published for any other purpose without the prior written permission of the MEDEA Project,

3. shall be treated as confidential by the Participant and by any third parties engaged or consulted by the Participant, and
4. must be returned immediately to the MEDEA Project upon completion or cancellation or of this Call.

In respect of any Trade Secrets such as business plans, R&D maps or trajectories, customer lists etc. that may be received from the Participant, the MEDEA Project undertakes to keep them secret and strictly confidential and to ensure that all the participants are bound by the same obligation of confidentiality.

17 Communication

In case of questions about the MEDEA project and the Open Call for Ideas and Solution contest please contact: g.kokkinis@kemea-research.gr.

In case of questions about the Call for Ideas and solution procedure and the application forms please contact medea@medea-project.eu.

All questions related to the Call should be submitted by 5 November 2021 (2 weeks before the submission deadline).

18 Annex documents

The following documents form the annexes of these Terms of Reference:

1. MEDEA - Annex 1 – Glossary
2. MEDEA - Annex 2 – CGF, The Capability Gap Findings where solutions and Ideas should apply.
3. MEDEA - Annex 3 - Application Form: Call for Solutions
4. MEDEA - Annex 4 - Application Form: Call for Ideas
5. MEDEA - Annex 5 - Evaluation Form: Call for Solutions. How applications will be evaluated.
6. MEDEA - Annex 6 - Evaluation Form: Call for Ideas. How proposals will be evaluated.
7. MEDEA - Annex 7 - Application Form: Non - Conflict of Interest. A declaration of non-conflict of interest.
8. MEDEA - Annex 8 - Application Form: Declaration of Compliance with Data Protection Legislation. A declaration of compliance with Data Protection Regulation in terms of MEDEA project
9. MEDEA - Annex 9 - Application Form: De Minimis declaration