



# Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)

# Call for proposals – Invitation to submit a proposal

rescEU CBRN decontamination capacities (UCPM-2021-rescEU-Capacities-IBA)

Version 1.0 07 July 2021

HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version	Version Publication Date Change		Page
1.0	dd.mm.2020	Initial version (new MFF).	
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## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

ECHO.A – Emergency Management and rescEU ECHO.A.02 – Capacities and Operational Support

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

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#### 0. Introduction

This is an invitation to submit proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of CBRN decontamination under the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 (<u>EU Financial Regulation</u>)
- the basic act (UCPM Decision <u>1313/2013/EU</u><sup>1</sup>)
- Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570.

The invitation is launched in accordance with the <u>2021 Work Programme</u><sup>2</sup> and will be managed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).

The call covers the following **topics**:

UCPM-2021-rescEU-Capacities — CBRN decontamination

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the <u>Model Grant Agreement</u>, the <u>EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online</u> Manual and the EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement.

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the Call Document outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
  - available budget and timetable (sections 3 and 4)
  - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
  - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
  - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
  - award criteria (section 9)
  - legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
  - how to submit an application (section 11)
- the <u>Online Manual</u> outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application

Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)4759 final of 1 July 2021 amending Implementing Decision C(2021)935 on the financing of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and adopting a multi-annual work programme for years 2021-2023.

#### the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:

 detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc.).

## 1. Background

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism ('the Union Mechanism') governed by Decision No 1313/2013/EU as amended by Decision 2019/420/EU (hereafter "Decision No 1313/2013/EU"), strengthens cooperation between the Union and the Member States and facilitates coordination in the field of civil protection to improve the Union's response to natural and human-induced disasters.

Decision No 1313/2013/EU defines the legal framework of rescEU. rescEU aims to provide assistance in overwhelming situations where overall existing capacities at national level and those committed by Member States to the European Civil Protection Pool are not able to ensure an effective response.

The evolution of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) disasters and the potential threat has led Member and Participating States to agree on initiating a CBRN stream of work under rescEU to increase the level of EU preparedness to CBRN disasters. The objective of this call is to award grants to Member and/or Participating States for the development and maintenance of CBRN decontamination capacities to be made available under rescEU.

On 26 January 2021, Implementing Decision 2021/88 on CBRN decontamination, amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570, was adopted. Reference scenarios, interoperability, capacity composition, CBRN agents and number of required CBRN decontamination capacities were among the topics on which Member and Participating States' experts were consulted.

As a result, three reference scenarios provide the backdrop of this call and should be taken into consideration when preparing a proposal for rescEU CBRN decontamination capacities. These include unintentional and intentional disasters with and without capacity prepositioning:

#### 1. Unintentional disasters

- Description: Major or several simultaneous CBRN incidents affecting a higher number of people than what a Member State and Participating State alone can handle. Examples include but are not limited to industrial incidents that may cause the contamination of large areas potentially involving more than one country; transport of hazardous materials or Natech disasters. These events can also occur in third countries and have a significant impact on the EU.
- Incident type: Chemical, biological or nuclear.
- Characteristics: Thousands to hundreds of thousands of people might be immediately affected by the disaster due to the exposure to chemical or radioactive agents. The number of people and the area affected by the disaster may increase also depending on weather conditions, e.g. winds, currents.

#### 2. Intentional disasters

- Description: Dissemination or dispersion of highly toxic agents or explosions involving radioactive materials, for which a rescEU development would be triggered.
- Incident type: Chemical, biological or radiological.
- Characteristics: Immediate and delayed health effects for thousands of people depending on the toxic agent including e.g. impaired vision, convulsions, blistering, respiratory stress/arrest or radiation injuries. Dispersion or explosion may occur outdoors (e.g. mass gatherings, water sources, etc.) or in confined spaces (e.g. boats, airplanes, opera houses, etc.). Depending on environmental factors, further spread may occur and affect critical infrastructure and vehicles.

## 3. Mass gatherings

- Description: Pre-deployment ahead of and during mass gatherings or highvisibility events for which there is a reasonable high risk of malicious activity.
- Incident type: Chemical, biological or radiological.
- Characteristics: Mass gatherings are events characterized by "the concentration of people at a specific location for a specific purpose over a set period of time that have the potential to strain the planning and response resources of the host country or community" (WHO). These may include e.g. large-scale sport competitions like the European Championship, the World Football Cup or the Olympic Games. This type of events may be targeted to cause intentional accidents involving e.g. the dispersion of toxic agents or the explosion of radioactive devices. Prepositioning decontamination capacities can help ensure prompt response in case of a CBRN event or intentional disaster.

The above-mentioned scenarios are non-exhaustive examples of the disasters that could see the deployment of a rescEU CBRN decontamination capacity. Many more scenarios could trigger the deployment of decontamination capacities. Reference scenarios are used to calibrate the response capacities to the scenario attributes that are likely to emerge during a real disaster, where examples of attributes may be among others disaster scale, agents to decontaminate, operational arrangements and equipment needed.

#### 2. Objectives — Expected outcomes — Capacity to be developed

## UCPM-2021-rescEU-Capacities — CBRN decontamination

## **Objectives**

The objective of the grant is to develop, maintain and ensure the availability of rescEU CBRN decontamination capacities in all three reference scenarios, i.e. in advance of major mass-gatherings in the case of mass decontamination or in the aftermath of large-scale CBRN incidents. The capacity will help to address temporary shortcomings caused by the exceptional need of surge capacity in CBRN decontamination, hence reinforcing cross-border disaster prevention mechanisms and contributing to booster EU resilience to CBRN disasters.

#### Expected outcomes

The expected outcome is to make available CBRN decontamination capacities to decontaminate infrastructure, buildings, vehicles, equipment, critical evidence and persons from chemical, biological and radiological agents including common Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs) and toxins.

The capacities must be able to cater for pre-positioning and deployment after a major CBRN emergency. Decontamination operations need to limit their environmental impact to a minimum and be inclusive, actively avoiding any discrimination based on sex, religion, gender orientation, disability, nationality or age.

## Capacity to be developed

CBRN decontamination capacities will consist of one or more of the following component groups:

- 1) Decontamination of infrastructure, buildings and vehicles
- 2) Decontamination of equipment and critical evidence
- 3) Mass decontamination and fatalities management

Proposals be accepted for any of the following combinations:

- 1 and 2 (no mass decontamination and fatalities management)
- 1 and 3 (no equipment and critical evidence)
- 2 and 3 (no infrastructure, buildings and vehicles)
- 1, 2 or 3 (only one group)
- 1,2 and 3 (all 3 groups for an integrated comprehensive decontamination capacity)

Subject to the available budget, the Commission tentatively aims to select proposals adding up to:

- 3 proposals x (infrastructure, buildings and vehicles)
- 2 proposals x (equipment and critical evidence)
- 2 proposals x (mass decontamination and fatalities management)

For the purposes of this grant, 'critical evidence' may include but is not limited to:

- Decontamination of critical evidence
- Decontamination of packaging containing critical evidence
- Support to forensic teams involved in the handling or removal of critical evidence

The capacity component proposed shall meet the quality requirements specified in Section 7 of the **Annex of Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570.** Applicants will have to confirm that these requirements are met (see Annex 2 to the present call document, to be filled out and added to Part B of the application form).

The response capacities should be strategically and geographically positioned to allow for quick and effective deployment mainly inside Europe preferably close to major airports and/or highways. Further, the following ranges are recommended and will be evaluated, but they are not a qualifying requirement:

- infrastructure capacities: 1500 3000 sqm/hour
- vehicles: 17-40 vehicles/hour

Proposed CBRN decontamination capacities should be able to decontaminate:

- chemical agents including blistering, choking and nerve agents, industrial chemicals including Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TIC) and EU High Risk Chemicals (Document No. HOME.D2/2019/002; SECRET UE/EU SECRET)
- biological agents and toxins comparable with the level of risk posed by the agents listed in category 3 and 4 of <u>DIRECTIVE 2000/54/EC</u>
- radiological agents resulting, for example, from nuclear power plant incidents, laboratory explosions, terrorist attacks including dirty bombs.

Proposals will be evaluated per group of components. Where proposals reflect an integrated capacity covering the 3 groups of components, the evaluators will split the components to reflect the groups as specified above. Each group of components will be evaluated individually. Grants will be awarded only to the highest ranked component groups, so that applications for fully-fledged capacities may be subject to a scope reduction.

## 3. Available budget

The indicatively available call budget from Next Generation EU is **EUR 100 000 000**.

We reserve the right not to award all available funds depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

#### 4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines		
Call opening:	19 July 2021	
Deadline for submission:	30 September 2021 – 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)	
Evaluation (tentative):	October-November 2021	
Information on evaluation results (tentative):	October-November 2021	
GA signature (tentative):	November-December 2021	

## 5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see timetable section 4).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the link in the invitation letter). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System ( NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (to be filled in directly online)
- Application Form Part B contains the technical description of the project (mandatory word template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF)
- Mandatory annexes and supporting documents (to be uploaded):
  - Detailed budget table (mandatory excel template available in the Submission System)
  - CVs of core project team
  - Activity reports of last year: not applicable to public authorities, mandatory for private entities
  - Information on in-country capacities comparable to the CBRN decontamination capacity proposed
  - Letter of mandate from the competent national civil protection authority (except for participants which themselves are the national authority).
  - Checklist on compliance with the quality requirements of Decision (EU)2019/570
     (applicants shall copy the list in Annex 2 of the present call document and attach it at the end of the application form Part B before assembling and uploading as one PDF file).
  - Payment schedule (see Annex 3 to the present call document)

The Description of Action and the annexes must be drafted in one of the EU official languages. However, in order to facilitate assessment by evaluators, applicants are encouraged to submit their application in English.

Please note that the amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants composing the consortium. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc.). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable**, **accessible and printable**.

Proposals are limited to maximum **70 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.).

For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the Online Manual.

## 6. Eligibility

#### Eligible participants (eligible countries)

Proposals may be submitted by Member States' competent authorities or other entities authorised by the Member State to develop rescEU capacities and to request and receive financial support from the Commission on behalf of that Member State.

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
  - UCPM Participating States: Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey (<u>list of participating countries</u>).

All participants and affiliated entities must register in the <u>Participant Register</u> — before submitting the proposal. The participants and affiliated entities proposed to be awarded a grant will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (conducted by Research Executive Agency) before the signature of the grant agreement. For the validation, they will be requested to upload in the Participant Register documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc. (see section 13).

## Specific cases

Natural persons are NOT eligible.

International organisations are not eligible.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons<sup>3</sup>.

EU bodies can NOT be part of the consortium.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'<sup>4</sup>. Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (e.g. entities subject to <u>EU restrictive measures</u> under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)<sup>5</sup> and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C  $205/05^6$ ). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

For more information, see <u>Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and</u> Financial Capacity Assessment.

#### Consortium composition

Applications by single applicants are allowed (single beneficiaries; affiliated entities and other participants are allowed, if needed).

#### Eligible capacities/assets

RescEU capacities shall meet all relevant quality requirements specified in Section 7 of the Annex of Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570.

#### Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2.

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc.).

## Ineligible activities

The following activities are not considered as eligible for funding under this invitation:

- Forensic analysis of critical evidence
- Transport of fatalities
- Maintenance after deployment
- Any activity related to capacity deployment, which are funded with a subsequent grant agreement.

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

#### Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (see above).

<sup>5</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the <u>EU Sanctions Map</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Commission guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

## **Security**

Projects involving EU classified information must undergo security scrutiny to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific security rules (detailed in a security aspects letter (SAL) which is annexed to the Grant Agreement).

These rules (governed by Decision  $\frac{2015/444}{4}$  and its implementing rules and/or national rules) provide for instance that:

- projects involving information classified TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET (or equivalent) can NOT be funded
- classified information must be marked in accordance with the applicable security instructions in the SAL
- information with classification levels CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET UE/EU SECRET and, if required by national rules, RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED, may be:
  - created or accessed only on premises with facility security clearing (FSC) from the competent national security authority (NSA), in accordance with the national rules
  - handled only in a secured area accredited by the competent NSA
  - accessed and handled only by persons with valid personnel security clearance (PSC) and a need-to-know
- at the end of the grant, the classified information must either be returned or continue to be protected in accordance with the applicable rules
- action tasks involving EU classified information (EUCI) may be subcontracted only with prior written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission)
- disclosure of EUCI to third parties is subject to prior written approval from the granting authority.

Please note that, depending on the type of activity, facility security clearing may have to be provided before grant signature. The granting authority will assess the need for clearing in each case and will establish their delivery date during grant preparation. Please note that in no circumstances the Commission can sign a grant agreement until at least one of the beneficiaries in a consortium has facility security clearing.

Further security recommendations may be added to the Grant Agreement in the form of security deliverables (e.g. create security advisory group, limit level of detail, use fake scenario, exclude use of classified information, etc.).

Beneficiaries must ensure that their projects are not subject to national/third-country security requirements that could affect implementation or put into question the award of the grant (e.g. technology restrictions, national security classification, etc.). The granting authority must be notified immediately of any potential security issues.

See Commission Decision 2015/544/EU, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

## 7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

## Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the <u>Participant Register</u> during grant preparation (e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc.). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (see below, section 10)
- pre-financing paid in instalments
- (one or more) pre-financing guarantees (see below, section 10)

or

- propose no pre-financing
- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

For more information, see <u>Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and</u> Financial Capacity Assessment.

#### Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **knowledge**, **qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- CVs of core project team
- activity reports of last year: not applicable to public authorities, mandatory for private entities
- Information on in-country capacities comparable to the CBRN decontamination capacity proposed
- Risk management plan
- Project schedule
- Letter of support from the competent national civil protection authority (except for participants which themselves are the national authority)

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

#### **Exclusion**

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>8</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>9</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

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, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social
or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with
this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation,
decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for
the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that 10:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, see sections 5 and 6). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria and then ranked according to their scores (see sections 7 and 9).

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (evaluation result letter).

Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant agreement.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also <u>Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions</u>). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. Award criteria

The award criteria facilitate the evaluation of proposals in relation to the set objectives and priorities. They enable the selection of proposals which the Commission can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Proposals will be evaluated per group of components. Where proposals reflect an integrated capacity covering the 3 groups of components, the evaluators will split the components to reflect the groups as specified above. Each group of components will be evaluated individually. Grants will be awarded only to the highest ranked component groups, so that applications for fully-fledged capacities may be subject to a scope reduction.

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

Relevance (maximum 35 points)			
Criteria	Infrastructure, vehicles and buildings	Equipment and critical evidence	Mass decon and fatalities
Clarity and consistency of project and objectives, including logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed			
Capacity (e.g. number of people decontaminated/hour and/or sqm/hour and number of vehicles/hour)		n/a	
Innovative solutions that can help tackle current and future challenges in a more effective way, e.g. shelf life, reagent versatility, gas vs aerosol decontamination.			
Interoperability with relevant existing EU capacities and compliance with applicable international standards.			
Logistics: ease/speed of transport; set- up time and weight; modularity of the capacity and ease of deployment of individual components; closeness to major roads and/or airports			
Contribution to the EU strategic and legislative context, in particular with reference to building the CBRN rescEU fleet			
Comparative relevance (why funding this capacity brings a higher value to the EU than funding another solution)			

Quality (maximum 35 points)			
Criteria	Infrastructure, vehicles and buildings	Equipment and critical evidence	Mass decon and fatalities
Methodology for implementing the project (quality assurance, project management, project schedule, risk management, monitoring and evaluation)			
Quality of the project teams in terms of expertise, skills, responsibilities and appropriateness of the management structure.			
Existing comparable in-country capacities and experience			
Cost efficiency (sufficient/appropriate budget for proper implementation; best value for money)			
Is the proposal implementable within the proposed timeframe? The action needs to be implemented by 31 December 2026. No extension can be granted.			
Maintenance requirements (warehouse management, cost, shelf life of relevant equipment and reagents, appropriate storage conditions)			
Risk evaluation (based on risk assessment by applicant and risk analysis by evaluators)			

Impact (maximum 30 points)			
Criteria	Infrastructure, vehicles and buildings	Equipment and critical evidence	Mass decon and fatalities
Ability to pre-deploy and deploy staff and capacity components to respond at least to the identified unintentional and intentional scenarios as described in section 1.			
Ability to deploy staff and capacity components and respond in a range of different geographic, industrial, societal settings adequately, in an inclusive and gender-balanced way without any discrimination.			
Geographic coverage			
Use of solutions to minimise environmental impact in particular with regard to reagents/decontaminants, management and treatment of contaminated water.			
Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding			

Maximum score: 100 points.

Individual thresholds: 60% per criterion.

Overall threshold: 60 points.

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

The applications will be **ranked** according to the total score of the group of capacity components. Should two or more proposals for the same group of capacity components obtain equal total scores, they will be ranked according to their score for criterion "Relevance", then if a tie remains, according to their score for criterion "Quality".

In addition to the above-mentioned award criteria, when awarding the projects, the Commission reserves the right to take into account the geographical repartition of the capacities to ensure an optimal coverage of the EU. In case of competing proposals within the same geographical area, proposals with the same overall score will be ranked according to their score for criterion "Impact".

## 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on <u>Portal Reference Documents</u>.

## Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 1). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. Retroactive application can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: the implementation of the action cannot go beyond 30 September 2026 and the final payment must be made before 31 December 2026. The duration may not be extended.

#### Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The following deliverables are mandatory for all projects:

- Annual progress reports and updated project schedule and risk management plans
- Ad hoc reports after major milestones
- Proof that the capacity has been registered in CECIS
- SOPs for the deployment of the capacity to be provided as soon as the capacity is developed

## Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc.) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5).

Project budget (maximum grant amount): no minimum or maximum limit. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a).

The costs will be reimbursed at the **funding rate** fixed in the Grant Agreement (100%).

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (see art 22.3).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, non-compliance with the visibility obligations, etc.).

## Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2).

## Budget categories for this call:

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- E. Indirect costs: not eligible

## Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

The eligible categories of costs linked to the development and maintenance of the resEU capacity are **exhaustively listed in Annex 1A of the Decision 1313/2013/EU**:

- 1. Equipment costs
- 2. Maintenance costs, including repair costs
- 3. Insurance costs
- 4. Training costs
- 5. Warehousing costs
- 6. Registration and certification costs
- 7. Cost of consumables
- 8. Cost of personnel required to ensure the availability and deployability of rescEU capacities.

In case of deployment of the capacities under rescEU, the costs directly linked to deployment, such as the cost of the personnel deployed or travel and subsistence during deployment, will be covered by a separate grant agreement and therefore cannot be declared under this grant so as to avoid double funding.

#### Personnel costs:

- SME owner/natural person unit cost<sup>11</sup>: Yes
- volunteers unit cost<sup>12</sup>: No

Travel and subsistence unit  $cost^{13}$ : Yes if linked to one of the categories listed in Annex IA of Decision 1313/2013/EU

Commission <u>Decision</u> of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

Commission <u>Decision</u> of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

Equipment costs: full costs for the items composing the capacity as described in section 2 + depreciation for support equipment such as warehouses

Costs for financial support to third parties are not allowed.

Indirect costs are not eligible (0% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D).

VAT is NOT eligible.

In-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost.

Visibility, communication: costs linked to the visibility of the project are eligible (stickers, newsletters, etc.); costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible but costs for *separate* project websites are not eligible.

## Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22).

After grant signature, the applicant may receive a **first pre-financing payment** to start working on the project. The pre-financing will be paid 30 days from entry into force of the financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest.

There will be one or more **additional pre-financing payments** linked to a pre-financing report.

The sum of all pre-financing payments will not exceed 80% of the maximum amount of the grant.

The pre-financing amounts will be calculated as a percentage of the maximum grant amount and on the base of the financing plan to be provided with the application (see Annex 3 of this call document).

**Payment of the balance**: At the end of the project, the Commission will calculate the final grant amount on the base of the final report submitted by the Coordinator. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, the Commission will ask the Coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the Coordinator.

Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (see art 22).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

Commission <u>Decision</u> of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35).

#### Pre-financing quarantees

If a pre-financing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the pre-financing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Pre-financing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (by one or several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc.). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to us in time to make the pre-financing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement.

## Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

A CFS must be provided for each beneficiary and affiliated entity when the requested EU contribution at interim or final payment is EUR 325 000 or more.

## Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount
- unconditional joint and several liability each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action

or

individual financial responsibility — each beneficiary only for their own debts.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

## Provisions concerning the project implementation

Security rules: see Model Grant Agreement (art 13 and Annex 5)

Intellectual property rights (IPR) rules: see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and

## Annex 5):

rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- limited communication and visibility to protect persons involved: No
- visibility in field operations outside the EU: Yes

Specific rules for carrying out the action: see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5):

- zero tolerance: Yes
- transfer of assets at the end of the action: not applicable to this invitation
- EU restrictive measures: Yes

## Other specificities

n/a

#### Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

For more information, see <u>AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement</u>.

## 11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

## a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to <u>create</u> an EU Login user account.

Once you have an EULogin account, you can <u>register your organisation</u> in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

## b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System through the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/submission/manage/screen/submission/create-draft/21408?topic=UCPM-2021-rescEU-Capacities-IBA

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file. Please copy the checklist in Annex 2 of the present call document and attach it at the end of the application form Part B before assembling and uploading as one PDF file.
- Annexes (see section 5). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The **project acronym** should follow the structure: rescEU-DECON-[country].

The proposal must keep to the page limits (see section 5); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the right category in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (see section 4). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the IT Helpdesk webform, explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the Online Manual. The Online Manual also contains the links to FAOs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

#### 12. Help

As far as possible, please try to find the answers you need yourself, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- Online Manual
- Portal FAQ (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

#### Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the IT

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: ECHO-RESCEU@ec.europa.eu.



## 🔼 Please:

- send your questions at the latest 7 days before the submission deadline (see section 4)

 indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (see cover page).

## 13. Important

## 1

#### IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (e.g. congestion, etc.) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the <u>Portal Terms & Conditions</u>.
- **Registration** Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the <u>Participant Register</u>. The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.
  - The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.
- **Coordinator** In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- Consortium agreement For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.
- **Balanced project budget** Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc.). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible

(including excessive).

- **No-profit rule** Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- No double funding There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances declared to two different EU actions.
- **Completed/ongoing projects** Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see AGA Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E).
- **Multiple proposals** Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).

Organisations may participate in several proposals.

BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).

- Resubmission Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- Rejection By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set
  out in this this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not
  comply with all the call conditions will be rejected. This applies also to applicants: All
  applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced
  or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see section 12).
- **Transparency** In accordance with Article 38 of the <u>EU Financial Regulation</u>, information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the <u>Europa website</u>.

This includes:

- o beneficiary names
- o beneficiary addresses
- o the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- o the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

 Data protection — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme

monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the  $\frac{\text{Funding \& Tenders Portal Privacy Statement}}{\text{Tenders Portal Privacy Statement}}$ .

## **Annex 1: Application compendium**

The following information refers to key elements to include in the application as part of the proposal for a rescEU CBRN decontamination capacity.

The applicant should describe the specifications of the capacity components based on the quality requirements set out in the Annex of Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 (Section 7) and the requirements presented in section 2 of the present call document. Further, the applicant should provide information based on all award criteria presented in section 9 of the present call document.

The applicant should specify whether the proposal refers to:

- o Infrastructure, buildings and vehicles (group 1) and/or
- o Critical evidence and equipment (group 2) and/or
- Mass decontamination and fatalities management (group 3)

## **Technical specifications**

The applicant should report the following technical specifications per capacity component and/or capacity group:

- Weight, size and capacity of the component (e.g. for mass decontamination: ambulant and non-ambulant persons per hour; for infrastructure: sqm per hour; for vehicles: number of vehicles per hour distinguishing between trucks/tons and cars)
- For each component and relevant agent family: reagents/decontaminants': toxicity; shelf-life; versatility; storage requirements including temperature; disposal requirements.
- Logistic requirements (ease of transport; modularity of the capacity and ease
  of deployment of individual components; closeness to major roads and/or
  airports road and/or plane transport if not possible on civil planes but only
  on military planes, please specify)

## **Interoperability**

The applicant should:

- confirm whether the solutions proposed are in line with recommended standards and/or with further internationally recognised standards to demonstrate the level of interoperability with existing European CBRN capacities
- include a list of applicable standards per component
- confirm that personal protective equipment for relevant emergencies comply with Regulation (EU) 2016/425 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on individual protective equipment and bear relevant CEmarkings.

#### **Additional requirements**

The applicant should detail:

- Staff requirements in terms of numbers, specialties and rosters
- training and exercises requirements

- relevant partnerships with national and international academic or training institutions
- resources required to perform operations as described in Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570
- Regular maintenance requirements
- Any aspects for which the self-sufficiency clause does not apply as they require interaction, agreement or support of the host country in order to carry out operations as detailed Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570, e.g. water supply, wastewater management, fatalities management.

## Strategy

The applicant should:

- Explain how the proposed solution contributes to the EU strategic and legislative context, in particular with reference to building the rescEU CBRN fleet
- Describe their ability to pre-deploy and deploy the capacity for cross-border emergencies with reference to the scenarios described in section 2
- list identified risks and risk management strategies and provisions to monitor, mitigate, transfer or eliminate the risks
- Describe their ability to deploy and respond in a range of different geographic, industrial, societal settings adequately
- Describe the extent of actions planned and capacity design that may ensure an inclusive and gender-balanced deployment and decontamination without discrimination of gender, age, religion, sexual orientation or disability
- Describe to what extent actions planned and capacity design may contribute positively to the recovery of disaster survivors and/or instigate further positive systemic effects for EU resilience
- Describe the sustainability of the project beyond the end of the funding period
- Describe which actions are going to be put in place to ensure communication, dissemination and visibility of funding.

## Methodology

The applicant should explain:

- Project and risk management approach and governance
- Methodology for implementation
- Budget allocations.

#### Innovation

If applicable, the applicant should explain the innovative nature or uniqueness of the solutions proposed including correspondent risks and added value of such innovations.

# Annex 2: Compliance with minimum requirements set out in Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570

The applicant confirms that the following conditions are met per capacity component and/or capacity group proposed in this application: ☐ Ability to erect temporary decontamination facilities within a safe radius, to monitor the decontamination area in order to keep the work environment safe and to evaluate the decontamination effectiveness ☐ Ability to procure appropriate equipment, technology and solutions to decontaminate from common toxic industrial chemicals, recognised warfare agents, biological infectious agents (pathogens) and toxins and radionuclides as specified in section 2 ☐ Ability to procure appropriate equipment and personnel to perform decontamination operations of infrastructure, buildings, vehicles, equipment, critical evidence and capabilities as appropriate. If the capacity covers the decontamination of persons, appropriate equipment and personnel to perform decontamination of ambulant and non-ambulant persons ☐ Ability to develop appropriate capability and procedures to monitor the decontamination area to keep the work environment safe and to verify the decontamination effectiveness ☐ Ability to procure appropriate personal protective equipment to operate safely in a contaminated environment for the complete period of deployment and flexibly depending on incident requirements ☐ Ability to procure and build adequate pumping systems and containers to takeup water locally ☐ Ability to safely manage waste by putting in place procedures during and after decontamination, including containment solutions to temporarily and safely store contaminated waste, pumps, waste combustion remains, contaminated water and wastewater treatment equipment ☐ Ability to manage hazardous waste, including contaminated water and other by-products, in accordance with relevant Union or international regulations, or the legislation of the host nation, whichever is more stringent and with support from the host nation ☐ Ability for the capacity component to be self-sufficient in accordance with Article 12(1) and (2) of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU

Signature and stamp of the responsible authority

☐ Ability to decontaminate the capacity's own personnel

☐ Ability to depart maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer

☐ Ability to maintain operations for at least 14 continuous days.

## **Annex 3: Pre-financing modalities**

The aim of the pre-financing is to provide the beneficiary with a flow of cash to develop the capacity and to maintain it. The periodicity of the pre-financings has to be set in the grant agreement.

Please provide us with a clear schedule of payments necessary for the development of your capacity. This schedule should be based on your yearly expenditure.

Please fill out the table below with the pre-financing instalments you intend to request to implement the action and upload this document under "Other Annexes" in the Funding and Tenders Portal.

Year	Expenditure (in EUR)	Pre-financing requested (in EUR)
2022*		
2023		
2024		
2025		
2026		
Total		

<sup>\*</sup> For the pre-financing requested for 2022, the payment may be made by the Commission in December 2021.

Please note that the total of the pre-financing will not be higher than 80% of the maximum EU contribution. The remaining amount will be calculated and paid at the end of the project, after the analysis of the final report.

If the statement on the use of the previous pre-financing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount of the next pre-financing instalment will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

The beneficiary must inform the Commission by 31 December each year about the cumulative expenditure incurred from the starting date.

The Commission reserves the right to adapt the payment based on the payment appropriations available.