

# Feedback opportunity for the work programme 2025

## Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society

**Destination 1: Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism.**

### Draft expected impacts:

Expected impact of the draft Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027: “Tackling crime and terrorism more effectively and increasing the resilience of infrastructure”. The following draft specific expected impacts are suggested for WP 2025:

- Modern information analysis for Police Authorities, allowing them to efficiently fight criminals and terrorists who use novel technologies;
- Improved forensics and lawful evidence collection, supported by well-established cross-border information sharing mechanisms, increasing the capabilities to apprehend criminals and terrorists and bring them to the court;
- Enhanced prevention, detection and deterrence of societal issues related to various forms of crime;
- Increased security of citizens against terrorism, including in public spaces;
- Improved intelligence picture and enhanced prevention, detection and deterrence of various forms of organised crime;
- More secure cyberspace for citizens, especially children, through a robust prevention, detection, and protection from cybercriminal activities

### Main expected outcomes:

The broad expected outcomes presented below will be used as a basis for defining specific expected outcomes tailored to each topic in WP 2025.

- Improved, modern, uniform and validated tools, skills, methodologies and innovative training curricula for security practitioners (European Police Authorities, forensic institutes) to prevent, detect and investigate criminal and terrorist offences, including the lawful court-proof collection of crime evidence;
- Improved mechanisms for cross-border information exchange in the fight against crime and terrorism;
- Enhanced understanding of the cultural and societal aspects of terrorism and other forms of crime, as well as on the key challenges related to combating them;
- Evidence-based support to policy-makers on shaping and tuning of regulation related to terrorism and other forms of crime;
- Enhanced perception by citizens that Europe is an area of freedom, justice, security and respect of privacy and human rights, thanks to innovative awareness-raising campaigns explaining to citizens the key and evolving mechanisms of crime and terrorism and how to protect against them.

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## Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society

### Destination 2: Resilient Infrastructure.

#### Draft expected impacts:

Expected impact of the draft Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027: “Tackling crime and terrorism more effectively and increasing the resilience of infrastructure”.

The following draft specific expected impacts are suggested for WP 2025:

- Ensured resilience of large-scale interconnected infrastructures in case of systemic failures, complex attacks, including combined cyber and physical attacks, or pandemics, natural or man-made disasters including the effects of climate change;
- Better risk assessment ensures resilience and strategic autonomy of European infrastructures;
- Upgraded infrastructure protection and resilient systems enable adaptive, rapid, effective, safe and secure response and recovery to complex threats and challenges without substantial human intervention;
- Resilient and secure smart cities are protected using the knowledge derived from the protection of critical infrastructures, public spaces, and systems characterised by growing complexity;
- Help integrating climate change impacts and considerations of future climate into European Standards relevant to infrastructures.

#### Main expected outcomes:

- Strengthened cross-border cooperation against natural or human-made threats and subsequent disruptions of infrastructures;
- Improved monitoring, forecast, multi-risks, vulnerability and complexity related assessments for interconnected physical-digital European infrastructures aiming to increase safety, security, resilience and design effective preventive, mitigating, preparedness, recovery and learning measures and protect against and respond to cascading effects;
- Modern and validated tools, methodologies and processes aimed to support local authorities to protect and empower people and assets in cities and urban areas.

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## Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society

**Destination 3: Effective management of EU external borders.**

### **Draft expected impacts:**

Expected impact of the draft Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027: “Facilitating legitimate movement of passengers and goods into the EU, while preventing illicit acts”.

The following draft expected impacts are suggested for WP 2025:

- Further explore and develop future capabilities for European practitioners in the areas of border management, customs and supply chain security, and civilian maritime security;
- Promote technological and social innovation from research results and/or further research investment.

### **Main expected outcomes:**

- Better monitoring, preparedness and reaction capabilities in border management tasks (managing migration, managing irregular or illegal activities involving people or goods across external borders, including land and maritime borders);
- Safeguarding of human rights in efficient border management.
- Improve efficiency and reaction time of operations in all geographical and meteorological conditions. Build capabilities needed for improving border surveillance and real-time situational awareness;
- Reduce workload, improve safety, user experience and performance of practitioners’ staff involved in border management;
- Improved identity and (travel) document and credential security, privacy and usability;
- Improved detection of dangerous, illicit and illegal goods and materials trafficked through external borders and the supply chain;
- Improved prevention and disruption of trafficking of dangerous, illicit and illegal goods and materials.

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## Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society

### Destination 4: Increased Cybersecurity.

#### Draft expected impacts:

Expected impact of the draft Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027: “Increasing cybersecurity and making the online environment more secure”.

The following draft specific expected impacts are suggested for WP 2025:

- Support the EU’s technological capabilities by investing in cybersecurity research and innovation to further strengthen its leadership, strategic autonomy, digital sovereignty and resilience;
- Help protect its infrastructures and improve its ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, resist, mitigate, absorb, accommodate and recover from cyber and hybrid incidents, especially given the current context of geopolitical change;
- Support European competitiveness in cybersecurity and European strategic autonomy, by protecting EU products and digital supply chains, as well as critical EU services and infrastructures (both physical and digital) to ensure their robustness and continuity in the face of severe disruptions;
- Encourage the development of the European Cybersecurity Competence Community, in close collaboration with the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC) in order to avoid duplication;
- Particular attention will be given to SMEs, who play a crucial role in the cybersecurity ecosystem and in overall EU digital single market competitiveness, by promoting security and privacy ‘by design’ in existing and emerging technologies

#### Main expected outcomes:

- Tools to increase collective situational awareness and support operational cooperation (Trusted Information Sharing & Collaborative Threat Intelligence Management), for example:
  - Via the establishment and exploitation of data spaces useful for European Cyber Threat Intelligence;
  - Increasing Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) services maturity level;
  - Improving the maturity of the Security Operations Centres (SOCs);
- Tools to support cybersecurity resilience, preparedness, and awareness within critical infrastructures and across supply chains, including:

- Tools to protect EU organisations and end-users from supply chain attacks;
  - Tools for enhanced adversarial attack detection capabilities of the EU digital assets;
  - Secure interoperability of systems (particularly for IoT and edge computing);
  - Secure infrastructure and secure Identities for a security chain that secure communication, data collection, data transport, and data processing;
- Secure design methods and security testbeds for hardware/software systems, especially to build safer and more secure industrial products and services, including products and services based on open-source software and open specification hardware;
- Security building blocks, architectures, or test beds for technologies such 6G, edge computing, cloud computing, confidential computing, AI, and the Internet of Things (both consumer and industrial applications);
- Tools to increase security of and through Artificial Intelligence (including generative AI), or the detection, prevention and preparedness of AI-powered cyber-attacks;
- New or improved certification mechanism and standardization frameworks in cybersecurity and resilience.

# Feedback opportunity for the work programme 2025

## Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society

### Destination 5: Destination: Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe.

#### **Draft expected impacts:**

Expected impact of the draft Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027: “Reducing losses from natural, accidental and human-made disasters”.

The following draft specific expected impacts are suggested for WP 2025:

- Enhanced citizen and local (city) authorities' involvement in research actions, and in operational measures that may result from research, with focus on risk awareness and enhanced disaster prevention and preparedness, including youth awareness raising and education;
- Improved disaster risk governance (from prevention, preparedness to mitigation, response, and recovery, using updated risk assessment methods and decision criteria, and including knowledge transfer and awareness of innovative solutions) from international to local levels;
- Strengthened capacities of first responders in all operational phases related to any kind of (natural and human-made, including hybrid threats) disasters in support of field operations with validation of tools and technologies used in disaster responses including emergencies, and demonstration of their interoperability.

#### **Main expected outcomes:**

- Improved disaster preparedness, learning from past disasters or crises, and better sharing of knowledge on lessons learned and risk awareness to citizens and local authorities (city level);
- Reinforced dialogue and cooperation among scientific and technical communities, stakeholders, policy-makers and local communities in disaster risk reduction for an enhanced uptake of research outputs;
- Better understanding of the impact of disasters and crises on risk governance, including emergency services, and improved adaptation and resilience of emergency systems;
- Enhanced European and global interoperability of existing tools and technologies and improved capacities to respond to different types of disasters (natural and human-made) by various practitioners (e.g. firefighters, medical responders, civil protection).

# Feedback opportunity for the work programme 2025

## Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society

### Destination 6: Strengthened Security Research and Innovation.

#### **Draft expected impacts:**

Expected impact of the draft Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027: “Cross-cutting R&I actions under the destination ‘Strengthened Security Research and Innovation’ (SSRI) will support the expected impacts”.

The following draft expected impacts are suggested for WP 2025:

- Increase the impact of the work carried out in the EU security R&I ecosystem and contribute to its core values;
- Create operationally applicable knowledge and value through research on topics (including technology, but also social sciences and the humanities) that are not exclusive to only one security area, but cross-cutting to the whole Cluster;
- Generate greater knowledge of standards or breakthrough research in matters that are of interest across all the thematic areas, including research on societal issues.

#### **Main expected outcomes:**

SSRI will increase the impact of the work carried out in the EU security R&I ecosystem and contribute to its core values, namely:

- Increased focus on the potential final use of the outcomes of security R&I;
- More forward-looking assessments of security challenges and advanced planning of EU security capabilities;
- Availability of security technologies that are socially acceptable;
- Greater safeguarding the EU’s open strategic autonomy in critical technology areas for security;
- Strengthened European security R&I ecosystem for more impact.