



**EUROPEAN
DEFENCE
FUND**

European Defence Fund 2025



Ljubljana, 6 March

Edmond TOUDJI

Policy Officer, DG DEFIS A.2

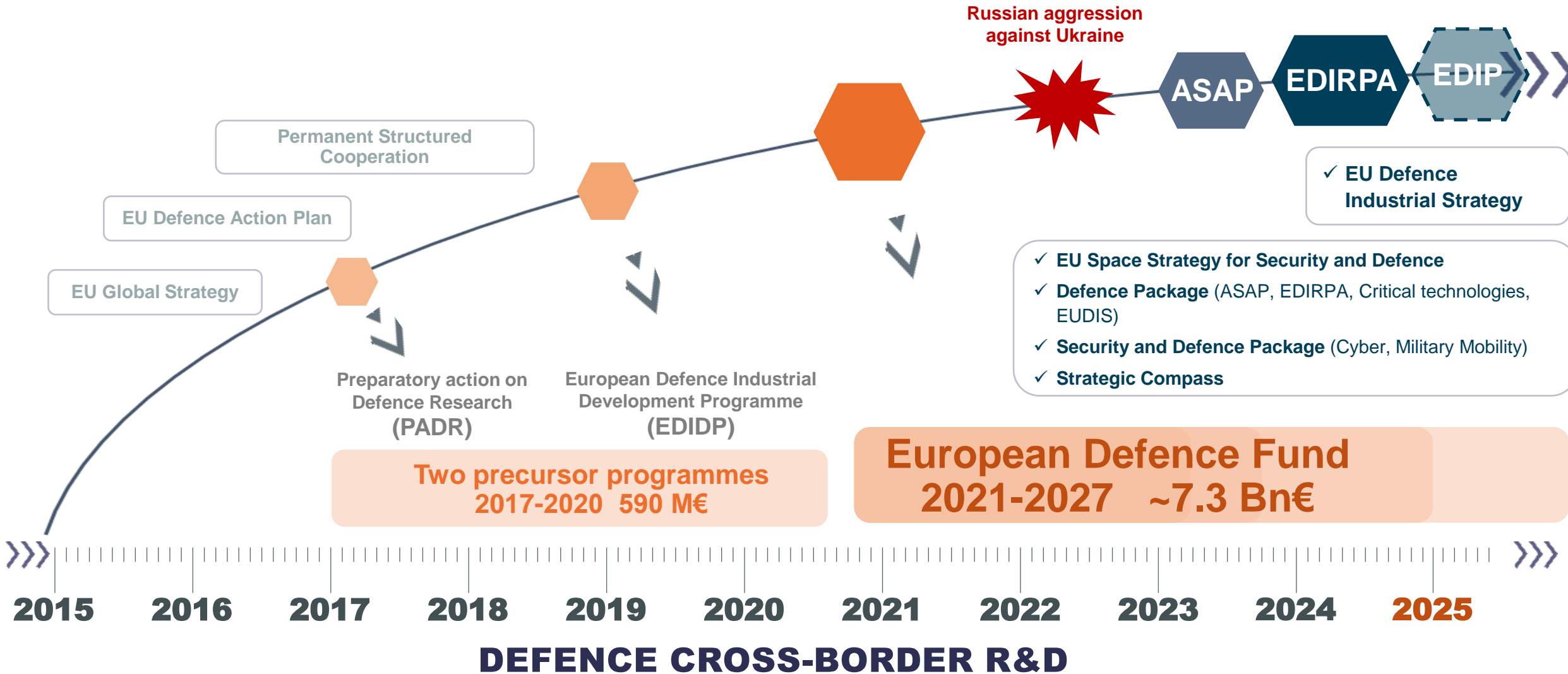
EDF Implementation – Programming and SME
support

AGENDA

-  Background and general overview of EDF
- EDF Work programme 2025 : details of the calls
-  Submission & Evaluation processes
- EDF supporting actions
- Q&A



Ramping-up EU's collaborative approach to defence investment

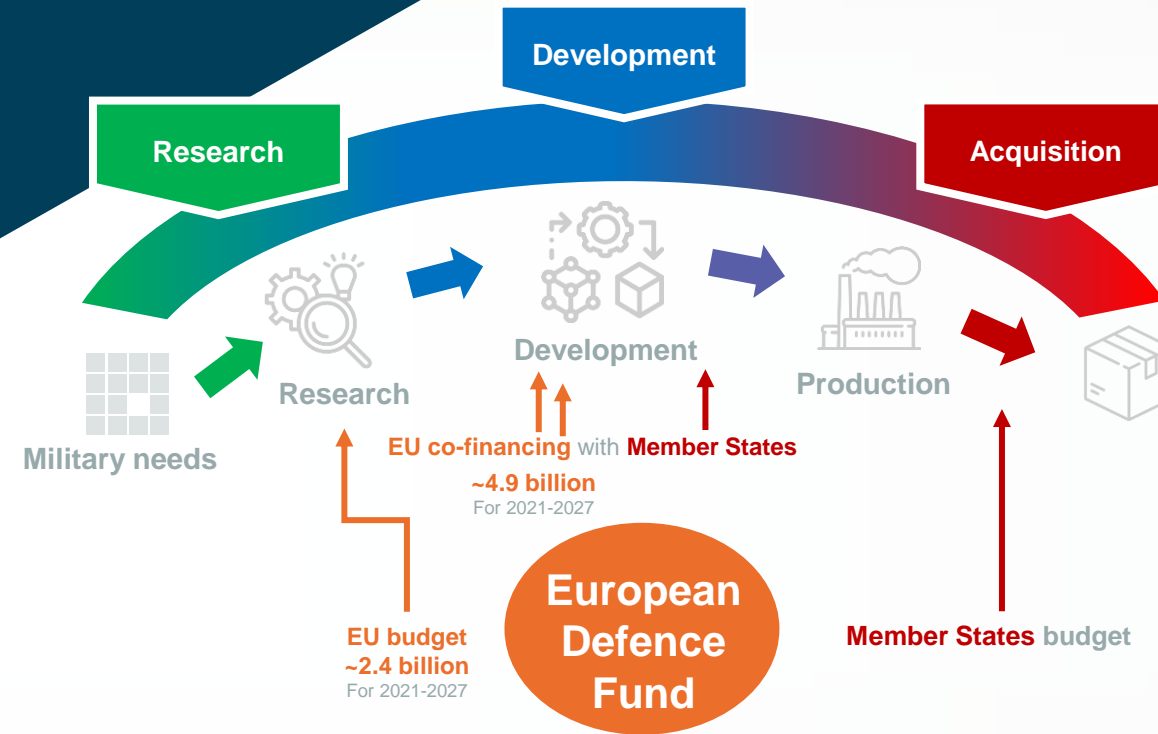


#EUDefenceIndustry

European Defence Fund : The EU defence R&D programme



#EUDefenceIndustry



- EDF financial support mainly in the form of grants
- Open to EU Member States and Norway
- Security-based participation conditions for entities controlled by third-countries

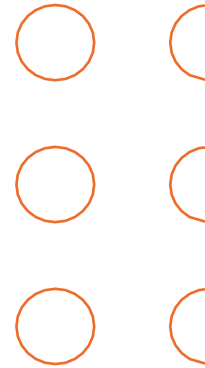
EDF Categories of Actions

Addressed by annual work programmes & calls for proposals



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

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



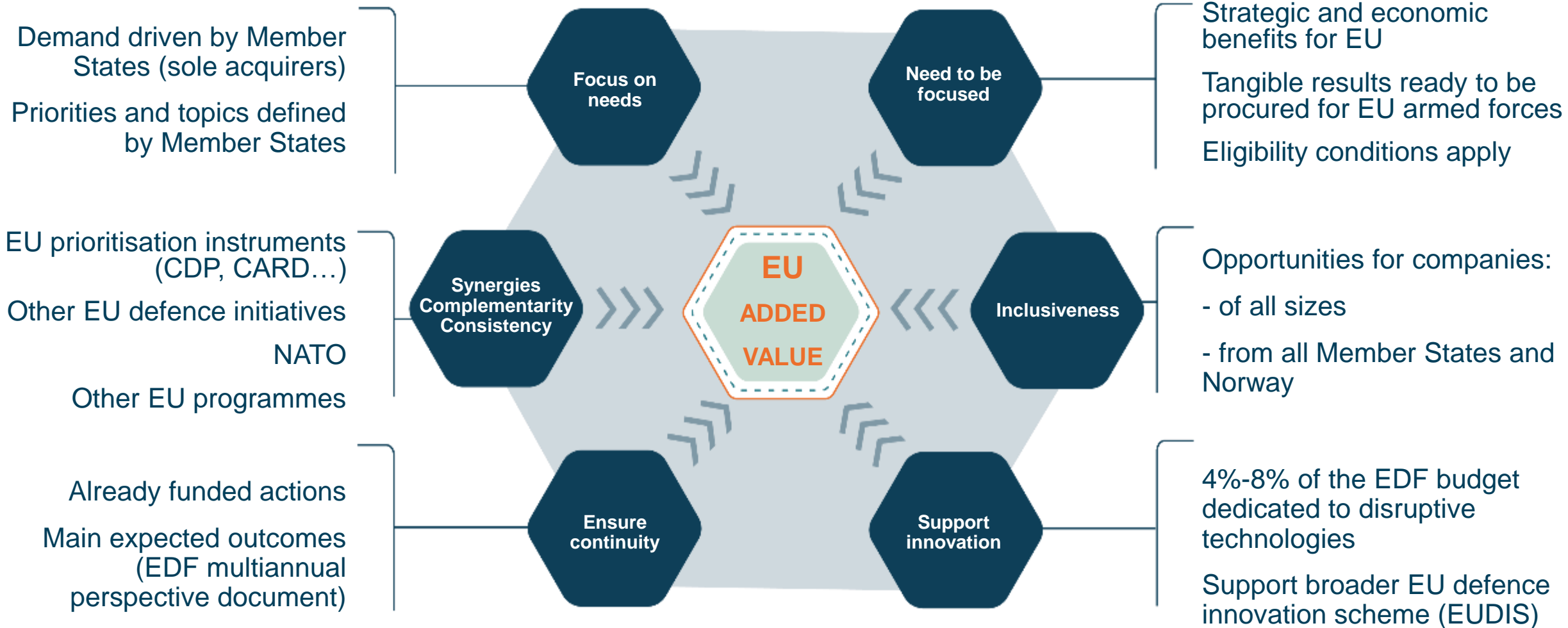
Horizontal categories

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

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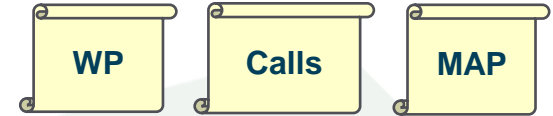


General principles governing implementation

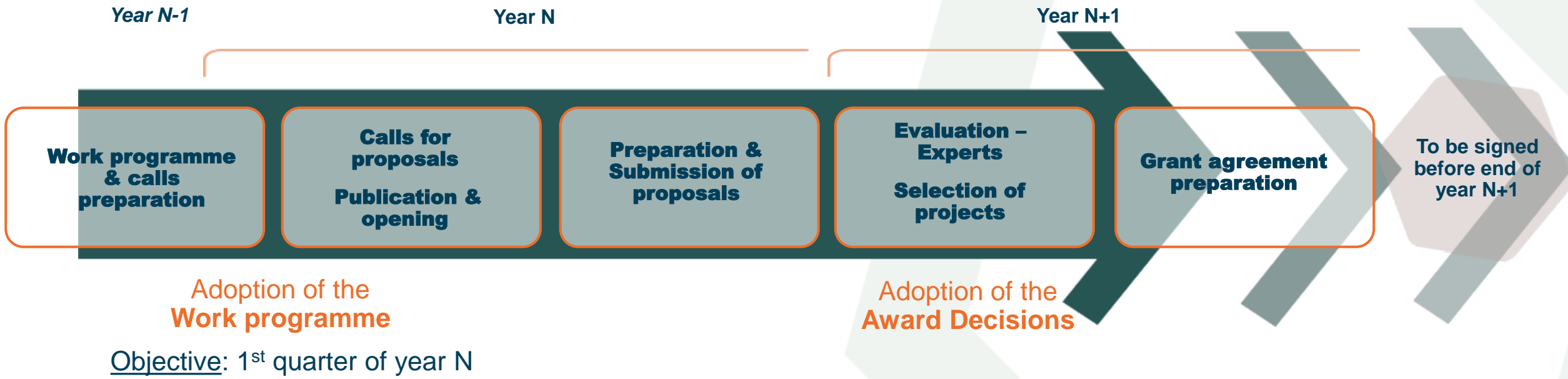


EDF Life-cycle

Annual work programmes and calls for proposals + indicative **multiannual perspective**



Member States (“EDF Programme Committee”) to validate the annual **work programme** (WP) and the **selection of projects** (awards) to be funded following the calls for proposals



EDF Multiannual perspective

- **Indicative document** (no commitment) prepared and reviewed each year in line with annual work programmes
- Presents a longer-term perspective than annual work programmes → **Predictability**
- Introduces the expected collective landing zone in terms of outcomes → **Visibility and output orientation**
- **Supports coordination** between Member States/Norway and industries

For each category of action

- **Main outcomes** expected from EDF support
- **Rationale** to meet these main outcomes

**Main
expected
outcomes**



**Budget
distribution**

- For some categories of actions**
- Foreseen overall **budget allocation**



EU funding rates: Research vs Development

- **EDF is an activity-based programme:** actions are composed of different activities financed at different rates.
- **Funding rate mechanism with bonuses** to incentivise participation of SMEs and mid-caps, synergies with other EU initiatives and co-financing (leverage effect).

RESEARCH

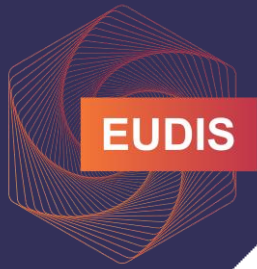
Activity type	EU funding rate
Generating knowledge	100%
Integrating knowledge	100%
Studies	100%
Design	100%

DEVELOPMENT

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

The bonus system: for development actions

CONDITION FOR APPLICATION	VALUE OF THE BONUS
PESCO Bonus	
Action developed in context of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)	+10% for all activities in the action
'Mid-cap' bonus	
% eligible costs allocated to 'Midcaps' established in the EU (or NO) \geq 15%	+10% for the activity
SME Bonus	
% eligible costs allocated to 'SMEs' established in the EU (or NO) \geq 10%	% of eligible costs allocated to ' non cross-border SMEs ' established in the EU or NO (maximum 5%) + 2 x % of eligible costs allocated to ' cross-border SMEs ' established in the EU or NO



FIVE EUDIS INNOVATION TRACKS



CHALLENGE YOUR IDEA

27 M€

- Defence Hackathon
- One Technological Challenge (Digital transformation)

EMPOWER SMEs

115 M€

- Open SME R&D calls (67 M€)
- Research calls for disruptive technologies (43 M€)
- Business coaching for grant receivers (1.6 M€)
- Business Accelerator & Matchmaking (3.2 M€)



ACCELERATE YOUR INNOVATION

84 M€

- Ground / Protection & Mobility - selected consortia invite individual SMEs and start-ups for targeted acceleration services



335 M€
2025



IMPROVE ACCESS TO FINANCE

20 M€

- Defence Equity Facility, implemented by the European Investment Fund



MIGRATE YOUR INNOVATION FROM CIVIL TO DEFENCE

89 M€

- Cyber (20 M€)
- Space (49 M€)
- Energy-Environment (20 M€)

EDF in perspective

EDF 2021

€1.17 billion

60 projects selected

142 proposals submitted

692 entities from 26 MS + NO
43% SMEs

EDF 2022

€0.83 billion

41 projects selected

134 proposals submitted

550 entities from 26 MS + NO
39% SMEs

EDF 2023

€1.135 billion

2 projects + 54 proposals selected

238 proposals submitted

581 entities from 26 MS + NO
42% SMEs

EDF 2024

€1.10 billion

Submission closed.
Proposals under assessment.

Award decision in May 2025

EDF 2025

€1.065 billion

Work programme and calls for proposals published

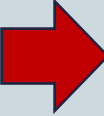
33 topics

In total, entities from 26 Member States and Norway.

On average:

- 17 entities from 8 Member States/Norway involved in a single project
- 19% of overall budget allocated to SMEs

EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND 2025

- Background and general overview of EDF
-  EDF Work programme 2025 : details of the calls
- Submission & Evaluation processes
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EDF WP and calls 2025: milestones

Time to prepare proposals > 8 months
(1 month more than in 2024)

30 Jan

Adoption and publication of **EDF WP* 2025**, **MAP**** and **call topics description**

19 Feb

Publication and opening of calls, **conditions** and **templates** on F&T Portal


TODAY

2-3 Apr

EDF Info Days

MAY

• **Results of EDF 2024 calls**

16 Oct
17.00 CET

Deadline for submission of proposals

* Work programme
** Indicative Multiannual perspective

EDF 2025 Call structure

Type of Action and Type of Model Grant Agreement as central elements in Work Programme structuring (*e-grants*)

Type of Action

- EDF-RA: European Defence Fund - **Research Action**
- EDF-LS-RA: European Defence Fund - **Lump Sum-Research Action**
- EDF-DA: European Defence Fund - **Development Action**
- EDF-LS-DA: European Defence Fund - **Lump sum-Development Action**
- EDF-RA-SGA: European Defence Fund - **Specific Grant Agreement***
- EDF-CSA - **Coordination and support action**

Type of Model Grant Agreement

- EDF-AG: European Defence Fund - **Action Grant**
- EDF-AG-LS: European Defence Fund - **Action Grant-Lump Sum**

9 competitive calls


EDF-2025-RA
EDF-2025-LS-RA-SI (Spin-in)
EDF-2025-LS-RA-CHALLENGE
EDF-2025-LS-RA-DIS (Disruptive)
EDF-2025-LS-RA-SMERO
EDF-2025-DA
EDF-2025-DA-SI
EDF-2025-LS-DA-SME
EDF-2025-CSA

2 invitation-based

EDF-2025-RA-SGA (EDF-2022-FPA-MCBRN-MCM)
EDF-2025-DA-SGA (EDF-2022-FPA-MCBRN-MCM)

*SGA awarded without call for proposals in relation to an existing Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)

EDF Topic Structure

- Each proposal shall be submitted against one topic
- Each topic is structured in sections
 - Objectives (General/Specific) } Context setting and description of problem/shortfall to be solved/addressed (capability, technology, operational,...)
 - Scope }  **Mandatory unless otherwise specified in the text**
→ Eligibility of the action
 - Types of activities (*) }
 - Functional requirements } Compliance evaluated in award criteria
 - Expected impact }

(*) Article 10(3) of EDF regulation: a) generating knowledge; b) integrating knowledge; c) studies; d) design; e) prototyping; f) testing; g) qualification; h) certification; i) increasing efficiency

Overview of the Research calls

Call	EDF-2025-RA	Nota	Targeted activities : <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Generating knowledge✓ Integrating knowledge✓ Studies✓ Design
Budget	182 M€		
Content	8 topics (slide 1/2)		



EDF-2025-RA-**MCBRN-ATE**: Autonomous triage and evacuation

10 M€

Studies, design



EDF-2025-RA-**C4ISR-MIDS-STEP**: Multifunctional Information Distribution System
(focus on fighter aircraft)

39 M€

Studies, design



EDF-2025-RA-**ENERENV-PSR**: Propulsion system for next generation rotorcrafts
(above 3000HP)

25 M€

Generating knowledge,
integrating knowledge,
studies, design







EDF-2025-RA-**MATCOMP-CDA-STEP**: Chipllets for defence applications
(design of minimum one military application)

25 M€


Generating knowledge,
integrating knowledge,
studies, design

Overview of the Research calls

Call	EDF-2025-RA	Nota	Targeted activities : ✓ Generating knowledge ✓ Integrating knowledge ✓ Studies ✓ Design
Budget	182 M€		
Content	8 topics (slide 2/2)		

	EDF-2025-RA- GROUND-CBC: Technologies for counter-battery capabilities	20 M€	Generating knowledge, integrating knowledge, studies
	EDF-2025-RA- UWW-SOASW: Stand-off anti-submarine warfare engagement (light weight torpedoes for UxV)	20 M€	Generating knowledge, integrating knowledge, studies
	EDF-2025-RA- SIMTRAIN-DAFAS: Multi-disciplinary design and analysis framework for Aerial Systems (aerodynamic, structural, systems...)	28 M€	Studies, design
	EDF-2025-RA- SIMTRAIN-LVC-STEP: Live, virtual, constructive training interoperability	15 M€	Design

Overview of the Research calls

Call 	EDF-2025-RA-SI	Nota	SPIN-IN : proposals need to build upon or integrate results achieved within one or several projects funded under an EU programme call with a focus on civil applications
Budget	40 M€		
Content	2 topics		



EDF-2025-LS-RA-SI-CYBER-3RAV-STEP: **Risk, robustness and resilience for autonomous vehicles**

20 M€

Generating knowledge, integrating knowledge, studies, design




EDF-2025-LS-RA-SI-ENERENV-NH2PS-STEP: **Naval hybrid propulsion and power systems**

20 M€

Studies, design

Overview of the Research calls

Call 	EDF-2025-LS-RA-CHALLENGE	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 topic for the organisation of the challenge (only 1 project to be funded) 1 topic for the participation to the challenge (several projects to be funded, hence the ceiling per proposal) Preliminary evaluation plans provided
Budget	27 M€		
Content	2 topics		



EDF-2025-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-HAIDP-STEP: Privacy-preserving human-AI dialogue systems – Participation in a technological challenge
 (focus on management of classified information and need-to-know, explainable AI)

20 M€ (max 5 M€ per project)

Generating knowledge, integrating knowledge




EDF-2025-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-HAIDO: Privacy-preserving human-AI dialogue systems – Organisation of a technological challenge

7 M€

Integrating knowledge

Overview of the Research calls

Call 	EDF-2025-LS-RA-DIS	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smaller consortia than other calls allowed (2 entities instead of 3)• Projects awarded under non-thematic topic likely to be under indirect management by EDA
Budget	43 M€		
Content	2 topics		



EDF-2025-LS-RA-DIS-GDET: Great-depth enabling technologies
(down to 6000m)

23 M€

Generating knowledge,
studies




EDF-2025-LS-RA-DIS-NT: Non-thematic research actions targeting disruptive technologies for defence

20 M€ (max 4 M€ per project)

Generating knowledge

Overview of the Research calls

Call 	EDF-2025-LS-RA-SMERO	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants must be SMEs* or Research organisation• Coordinator needs to be an SME*• Subcontracting strictly limited to 30%• Projects awarded likely to be under indirect management by EDA
Budget	34 M€		
Content	1 topic		



EDF-2025-LS-RA-SMERO-NT: Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations








34 M€ (max 4 M€ per project)

Any of :
Generating knowledge,
integrating knowledge,
studies, design

* within the meaning of EU Recommendation 2003/361









Overview of the Development calls

Call	EDF-2025-DA	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted activities : all activities except generating knowledge Normally only 1 project to be funded for each topic
Budget	546.5 M€		
Content	12 topics (slide 1/3)		

	EDF-2025-DA- SENS-MB4DR-STEP: Multi-band 4D Radar (adapted to ground and naval platforms)	29.5 M€		Integrating knowledge, studies, design
	EDF-2025-DA- SENS-IRD-STEP: Technologies for optronic detectors (compatible with different IR technologies and 2D/3D architectures)	29 M€		Integrating knowledge, studies, design, prototyping, testing
	EDF-2025-DA- CYBER-CDOC-STEP: Improved cyber defence operations capabilities	34 M€		Integrating knowledge, studies, design, prototyping
	EDF-2025-DA- SPACE-SBISR: Space-based ISR constellation (with various types of innovative sensor payloads)	66 M€		Studies, design, prototyping, testing

Overview of the Development calls

Call	EDF-2025-DA	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted activities : all activities except generating knowledge Normally only 1 project to be funded for each topic
Budget	546.5 M€		
Content	12 topics (slide 2/3)		

	EDF-2025-DA-AIR-CAC: Collaborative air combat (service-oriented architecture, manned and unmanned)	49 M€		Studies, design
	EDF-2025-DA-AIR-EPE: Enhanced pilot environment (innovative sets of equipment, human-machine interface)	54 M€		Studies, design, prototyping
	EDF-2025-DA-GROUND-FM2LP: Future modular multifunctional land platforms and enabling technologies	79 M€		Studies, design, prototyping, testing, qualification, certification, increasing efficiency
	EDF-2025-DA-GROUND-LCC-STEP: Land collaborative combat including air-land (support decision-making and joint engagement)	44 M€		Integrating knowledge, studies, design, prototyping, testing, qualification, certification, increasing efficiency

Overview of the Development calls

Call	EDF-2025-DA	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For EDF-2025-DA-PROTMOB-SS: Financial support to third parties (cascade funding) allowed up to 3.43% of EU requested contribution – Open to Ukrainian entities
Budget	546.5 M€		
Content	12 topics (slide 3/3)		



EDF-2025-DA-ENERENV-APEM: Aircraft propulsion and energy management systems (focus on modular approach for fighter aircraft)

48 M€

Studies, design, prototyping, testing



EDF-2025-DA-PROTMOB-SS: Full-size demonstrators for next generation soldier systems (based on open architecture)

35 M€



Studies, design, prototyping, testing



EDF-2025-DA-NAVAL-DSNCC-STEP: Digital Ship and Naval Combat Cloud

54 M€



Studies, design, prototyping, testing




EDF-2025-DA-UWW-AUWN-STEP: Advanced underwater networks (network of sensors for situational awareness)

25 M€

Integrating knowledge, studies, design, prototyping

Overview of the Development calls

Call 	EDF-2025-DA-SI	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposals need to integrate results from projects funded under an EU programme with a focus on civil applicationsFor EDF-2025-DA-SI-GROUND-DAMM: cascade funding allowed up to 6.12% of EU requested contribution – Open to UA entities
Budget	98 M€		
Content	2 topics		



EDF-2025-DA-SI-SPACE-3OS: On-orbit operations and services
(focus on concept of operations)

Studies, design

49 M€




EDF-2025-DA-SI-GROUND-DAMM: Drone-based affordable mass munitions
(emphasis on of precision-guided and intelligent munitions)

Studies, design,
prototyping, testing

49 M€ (max 9.8 M€ per project)

Overview of the Development calls

Call 	EDF-2025-LS-DA-SME	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants must be SMEs*• Subcontracting strictly limited to 30%• Projects awarded likely to be under indirect management by EDA
Budget	36 M€		
Content	1 topic		

 EDF-2025-LS-DA-SME-NT: **Non-thematic development actions by SMEs**

36 M€ (max 6 M€ per project)

Any of :
Integrating knowledge, studies, design, prototyping, testing, qualification, certification, increasing efficiency

* within the meaning of EU Recommendation 2003/361

Coordination and support action

Call	EDF-2025-CSA	Nota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants must be the national support structures hosting the EDF-NFP or the alternate EDF-NFP officially nominated to the Commission by a Member State or an EDF Associated Country• One proposal to be funded• Actual cost grant
Budget	2 M€		
Content	1 topic		

 EDF-2025-CSA-NFP: **Support to the EDF National Focal Points (NFP) network**

2 M€



EDF Work Programme 2025

EUR ~1.065 billion

33 topics

Now open for proposals : refer to published calls

Deadline for submission: 16 Oct 2025 17.00 CET

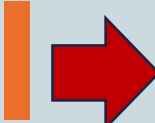
 Medical Response & CBRN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures  13.5 M€ SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures  11.5 M€ Autonomous triage and evacuation 10 M€ 	 Air combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative air combat 49 M€ Enhanced pilot environment 54 M€
 Information superiority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Multifunctional Information Distribution System  39 M€ 	 Air & missile defence	Not addressed
 Sensors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-band 4D radar  29.5 M€ Infrared detectors  29 M€ 	 Ground combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counter-battery capabilities 20 M€ Future modular multipurpose land platforms 79 M€ Drone-based mass munitions (spin-in, cascade funding) 49 M€ Land collaborative combat including air-land 44 M€
 Cyber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robustness of autonomous vehicles (spin-in)  20 M€ Improved cyber defence operation capabilities  34 M€ 	 Protection & Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soldier systems (cascade funding) 35 M€
 Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-orbit operations and services (spin-in)  49 M€ Space-based ISR constellation 66 M€ 	 Naval combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital ship and naval combat cloud  54 M€
 Digital transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human-AI dialogue systems (challenge)  27 M€ 	 Underwater warfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced underwater networks  25 M€ Stand-off anti-submarine warfare 20 M€
 Energy & Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propulsion system for next generation rotorcrafts 25 M€ Naval hybrid propulsion and power systems (spin-in)  20 M€ Aircraft propulsion and energy management systems 48 M€ 	 Simulation & training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and analysis framework for Aerial Systems 28 M€ Live, Virtual, Constructive training interoperability  15 M€
 Materials & Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chiplet for defence applications  25 M€ 	 Disruptive technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great-Depth Enabling Technologies (R) 23 M€ Non-thematic research topic 20 M€
		 SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-thematic research for SMEs and ROs 34 M€ Non-thematic development for SMEs 33 M€

Legend: Research Development  STEP EUDIS-related

 Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other actions (outreach, IT, studies, audit, indirect management) 6,6 M€ Business coaching for SMEs 1.6 M€ Blending facility for equity funding for SMEs/Mid-Caps 20 M€ Business accelerating services 3.8 M€ Matchmaking events for investors and SMEs 0.6 M€ EDF hackathon events 0.6 M€ CSA for EDF NFP network 2 M€
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#EUDefenceIndustry

EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND 2025

- Background and general overview of EDF
- EDF Work programme 2025 : details of the calls
-  Evaluation of proposals & submission process
- EDF supporting actions
- Q&A



EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS

General workflow

Evaluation of proposals based on the assessment of 6 conditions and criteria by the **Evaluation Committee (Commission)** with the **assistance of independent experts**



Admissibility Conditions


Formal requirements related to the submission and presentation of proposals



Submitted before the call
deadline:
16 October 2025 - 17.00 CET



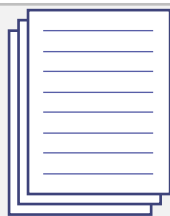
Full proposal must be **readable**, **accessible** and **printable** and searchable pdf files, unless otherwise specified

Funding & tender opportunities 

Submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System

Hola Bonjour
Ahoi Guten Tag
Buongiorno

Proposal in one of the **official languages** of the Union (English language is encouraged)



Proposals (w/annexes and supporting documents) must be **complete** and submitted **using the forms** provided

1 1
Proposal = Topic

Each proposal must only be submitted **against one topic**

Part B
max 100 pages

Description of the proposal (part B) should be **not longer than 100 pages**

Eligibility of consortia and entities

Consortia

- at least 3 independent **eligible** entities
- established in at least 3 different MS/Norway

Exception

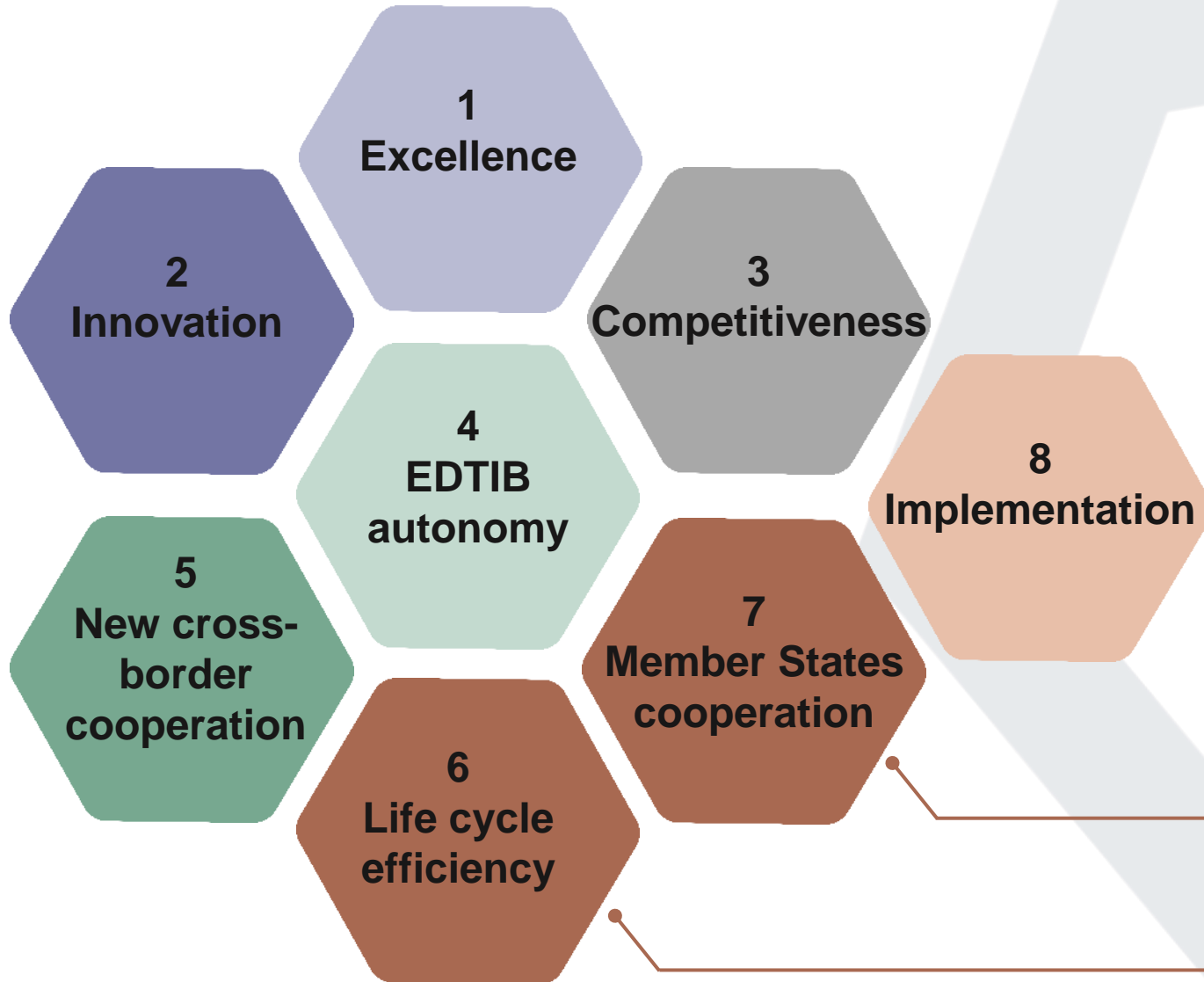
- call for disruptive technologies (EDF-2025-LS-RA-DIS): at least 2 MS/Norway

Natural persons are NOT eligible!

Entities



Award criteria



**Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8
Applicable to all calls
(Research and Development)**

**Criteria 6 & 7 only applicable
to Development calls**

Weighting

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

Ethics issues table and ethics self-assessment

Part A

4 - Other questions

Ethics Issues Table		?
1. Human embryonic stem cells and human embryos		Page
Does this activity involve human embryonic stem cells (hESCs)?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	12
Will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Are they previously established cell lines?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Are the cell lines registered in the European registry for human embryonic stem cell line?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
2. Humans		Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	14
Are they volunteers for non medical studies (e.g. social or human sciences)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Are they healthy volunteers for medical studies?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Are they patients for medical studies?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	15
Are they potentially vulnerable individuals or groups?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Are they children/minors?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Are they other persons unable to give informed consent?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, tracking and tracing etc.) on the study participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014) (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
3. Human cells / tissues		Page
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues (not covered by section 1)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
4. Personal data		Page
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	



Version 2.0 13 July 2021

[how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf)

PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Read carefully

Call document – is the main source of information!

Additional documents, referred to in the Call document, may provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- [Online Manual](#)
- [Annotated Grant Agreement \(AGA\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

How to submit a proposal?

The screenshot displays the 'Funding & tender opportunities' page on the European Commission's Online Manual. The page is titled 'Submit a proposal — Electronic Submission System'. A navigation breadcrumb shows the path: / Online Manual / Grants / Applying for funding. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

The main content area features a process flow diagram with four steps: 'Find a call', 'Conditions for funding', 'Find partners', and 'Submit a proposal'. The 'Submit a proposal' step is highlighted in dark blue. Below this, a secondary flow shows 'Get prepared' and 'Electronic proposal submission'. A 'HOW TO' icon is visible on the right side of the flow.

The 'Submit a proposal' section contains the following text:

Proposals must be submitted electronically using the Portal Submission System.

Where? Access to the Submission System is available through the Topic page on the Portal > Start Submission.

Who? Proposals must be created and submitted by a contact person of the coordinating organisation. Exceptions exist for some programmes/types of action which are fully focused on individuals (e.g. the Principal Investigator in Horizon Europe ERC grants or the Fellow in Horizon Europe MSCA grants).

How? The **Submission wizard** will guide you step-by-step through the process. You will need to use the online forms and templates available in the Submission System. The application form is described below.

Submission process

Get prepared: Finding your topic > Find partners > Plan your work and budget

Electronic proposal submission: Get an EU Login account > Get a PIC number (Participant Register) > Launch Submission wizard > Pre-register your draft proposal > List participants, contact persons > Fill in Administrative Forms (Part A) > Upload Technical Description (Part B) > Submit your proposal > Acknowledgement of receipt

Application form (Part A and B)

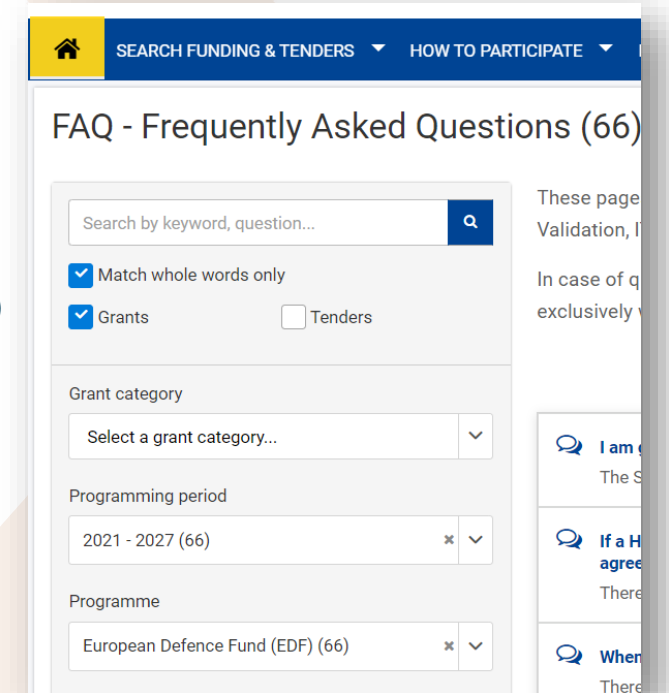
Proposals are submitted using the application forms available in the Submission System. The **application form** is structured into two parts, Parts A and B:

- **Part A:** contains the structured Administrative Forms with data on the participants, legal declarations and contact persons (retrieved from the Submission System screens). It may also include some programme-specific questions.

Step-by-step Submission process

Useful links

- [General information on the EDF on DG DEFIS website](#)
(including EDF annual work programmes and multiannual perspective, tutorials)
- [EDF Calls for proposals on the *Funding and Tenders portal*](#) (where to apply)
- [EDF Reference documents on the *Funding and Tenders portal*](#)
(Regulation, conditions to apply, submission templates, model grant agreements, etc.)
- [National Focal Points Network](#)
- Remaining questions regarding application to EDF calls for proposals?
→ DEFIS-EDF-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu
- [Infoday web page](#) (access to recording of the event)
- [Frequently Asked Questions on Funding and Tenders portal](#)



Available tutorials



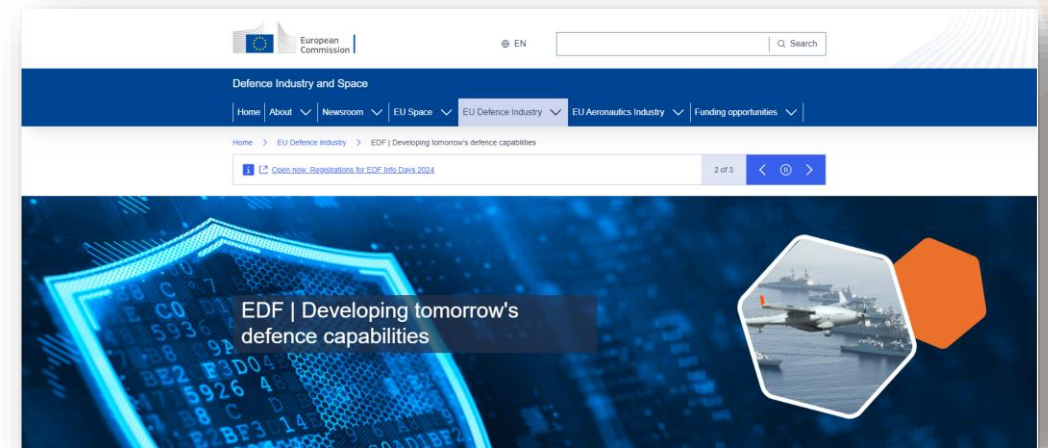
Financial aspects

- Cost categories and eligible costs
- Actual indirect costs methodology declaration
- Detailed budget tables

- Tutorials available in the form of **videos + slides** (all accessible from the main EDF webpage)
- Chaptering system allowing direct navigation to sections of interest

Other aspects

- PIC registration and validation
- SME and mid-cap assessment
- Ownership control assessment



EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND 2025

- Background and general overview of EDF
- EDF Work programme 2025 : details of the calls
- Submission & Evaluation processes
- EDF supporting actions
- Q&A



EDF National Focal Points – a network for YOU

»»» Contact points to support YOU in each Member States and Norway

»»» Supported by national structures and under their responsibility/control

»»» Inspired by National Contact Points in Horizon Europe

»»» **Find your EDF National Focal Point**

https://ec.europa.eu/defence-industry-space/network-european-defence-fund-national-focal-points-nfp-0_en

Main tasks

- Provide practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in EDF
- Organise awareness raising events
- Help with partner search
- Signpost to relevant national/EU sources

NFP Project

- The NFPs also cooperate cross-border with an EDF-funded grant, to strengthen their services and provide matchmaking
- The coordinator will update you on NFP practical support

How to search for partners?

Partner search tool on the EU Funding & Tenders portal

- Register and request/offer expertise to your topics of interest



EDF Info Days brokerage / matchmaking + national EDF Info Days

- Platform open until end of year!

Network of EDF National Focal Points (NFP)

- Contact details of your national contact point(s) on the web site!

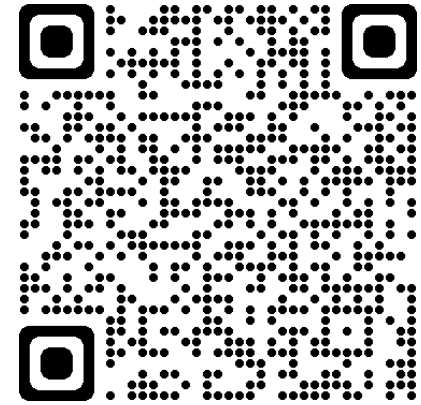
Other platforms

- Enterprise Europe Network
- European Defence Agency B2B platform
- European Network of Defence related Regions (ENDR)



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF DEFENCE-RELATED REGIONS

- **Brings together regional organisations and clusters to exchange good practices in**
 - Integrating dual-use (defence-related) into their regional development strategies
 - Promote EU-funding opportunities + supporting defence-related SMEs
- **Inform regional organisations and clusters about funding opportunities**
 - so that they can in turn provide information and guidance to SMEs
- **Promote the regional clusters of excellence**



www.endr.eu

More than 60 members → if interested, **join the network!**

EUDIS coaching services for SME beneficiaries



What is it?

- Up to 15 days of **EU-funded business coaching for SME beneficiaries** of the EDF
- Provided by defence industry experts on a **one-to-one basis**, tailored to each company's needs



What is the aim?

- To help SMEs grow beyond their EDF project



Who is eligible?

- All SME **beneficiaries** of the EDF calls



Who provides the coaching?

- A pool of **100+ defence/space industry experts**; proven track record in entrepreneurship, SME support and/or active roles in defence and space industry.



How to apply?

- 1) Register and 2) Complete their coaching services questionnaire via the **EUDIS coaching services platform**.



Apply now via the **EUDIS coaching platform!**

EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND 2025

- Background and general overview of EDF
- EDF Work programme 2025 : details of the calls
- Submission & Evaluation processes
- Other EU actions in support of defence industry
- Q&A



EDF 2025

Questions?

Annexes

ACTIVITIES OF AN ELIGIBLE ACTION

An eligible action shall relate to one or more of the following activities (EDF regulation – art 10.3) :

- a. **Generate knowledge** : activities that aim to create, underpin and improve knowledge, products and technologies, including disruptive technologies for defence, which can achieve significant effects in the area of defence;
- b. **Integrate knowledge** : activities that aim to increase interoperability and resilience, including secured production and exchange of data, to master critical defence technologies, to strengthen the security of supply or to enable the effective exploitation of results for defence products and technologies;
- c. **Studies** : studies, such as feasibility studies to explore the feasibility of new or upgraded products, technologies, processes, services and solutions;
- d. **Design** : the design of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology as well as the definition of the technical specifications on which such a design has been developed, including any partial tests for risk reduction in an industrial or representative environment;
- e. **Prototyping** : the system prototyping of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
- f. **Testing** : the testing of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
- g. **Qualification** : the qualification of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
- h. **Certification** : the certification of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
- i. **Increasing efficiency** : the development of technologies or assets increasing efficiency across the life cycle of defence products and technologies.

EDF CALL TOPICS 2025 : indicative summary*

Categories of actions	Topic	Short description
1. Defence medical response, CBRN, biotech and human factors	- SGA for Medical counter measures (R) & SGA for Medical counter measures (D)	- Within the FPA following the call topic EDF-2022-FPA-MCBRN-MCM to establish and support the EU defence medical countermeasures Alliance, the selected consortium will be invited to submit a proposal that will implement the 2025 R&D actions contained in the action plan set out in the above-mentioned FPA. The objectives and tasks to be performed will be as defined in the FPA.
	- Autonomous triage and evacuation (R)	- develop and validate innovative autonomous capabilities that address the specific challenges of military battlefield triage and casualty evacuation in mass casualty scenarios, with a dedicated focus on two technologies, namely (i) robust automatic (robotic-assisted) and autonomous (robotic) battlefield triage , and (ii) autonomous casualty evacuation and casualty extraction .
2. Information superiority	- EU MIDS – Multifunctional Information Distribution System (R)	- design, develop and test a demonstrator of a European Fighter MIDS terminal with an innovative SCA (Software Communication Architecture) to exceed or be at least comparable to the systems and capabilities available at the time of its entry into service.
3. Advanced passive and active sensors	- Multiband 4D Radar technologies (D)	- focus on the evolution and integration of technologies available in the EU to obtain a more robust and capable operational radar system that can be adapted to ground and naval platforms . A multi-band 4D radar system is expected to provide intelligent management of the frequency spectrum to adapt to different environments, threats and jamming scenarios, including datalink capabilities to collaborate with other platforms and effectors that will enhance mission capabilities.
	- Infrared detectors (D) (Follow-on)	- increase the technological maturity of the advanced readout integrated circuits (ROIC) designs and to fully qualify the supply chain for advanced ROICs compatible with different IR technologies and 2D/3D architectures , as called by the EDF-2021-SENS-R-IRD topic in 2021.
4. Cyber	- Risk, robustness and resilience for autonomous vehicles in military operations (R)	- bolster UxV's essential capability to monitor, detect, react and reconfigure, with a particular focus on the development of a “risk-evaluation engine” to generate alternative risk-based courses .
	- Improved cyber defence operations capabilities (D) (Follow-on)	- develop state-of-the-art, effective and reliable solutions that operate and, where possible, automate larger parts of EU military cyberspace operations in a distributed manner , including the synchronisation of kinetic and cyber exercises across domains that present multiple dilemmas to adversaries.

EDF CALL TOPICS 2025 : indicative summary*

Categories of actions	Topic	Short description
5. Space	- On-orbit operations and services (D)	- focus on the development of CONOPS for on-orbit operations and services addressing all types of orbits , with a feasibility analysis that can provide defence capability planners with the information they need to develop future capabilities, as well as some initial design activities.
	- Space-based ISR constellation (D) (Follow-on)	- contributing to develop an affordable constellation of small satellites , including its ground segments able to handle various types of innovative sensor payloads (optical, night vision, low light infrared, hyperspectral, RADAR, passive RF detection, video) for ISR applications.
6. Digital transformation	- Privacy-preserving learning for human-AI dialogue systems (R) (Challenge)	- for using dialogue systems in defence-specific applications, which involves the management of classified information , there is a need to ensure that these systems can properly handle and protect such information. This requires a form of learning that takes into consideration the need to know associated to different sets of classified information to enable the systems to adapt their answers depending on the security context of the dialogue. The systems should also be able to justify their answers (explainable AI), and to adapt under user supervision while avoiding any regression.
7. Energy resilience and environmental transition	- Propulsion system for next generation rotorcrafts (R)	- develop and mature the technologies required for a new state-of-the-art, breakthrough, affordable, efficient and high-power (above 3000 horsepower/2.237kW) engine for the future generation of EU military rotorcraft systems.
	- Naval hybrid propulsion and power systems (R)	- explore future modular, scalable and hybrid propulsion systems , as well as hybrid direct current (DC) power systems for military naval applications, while performing systems integration in a combined digital and physical environment.
	- Alternative propulsion and energy system for next generation air combat (D) (Follow-on)	- develop and mature a new suite of advanced technologies for propulsion, power and thermal management system for fighter aircraft that can be applied in a modular and flexible manner to different sizes and types of systems , operating within a system-of-systems configuration that will encompass various interconnected elements, including manned and unmanned systems, swarms of drones and auxiliary platforms.
8. Materials and components	- Chiplelets for defence applications (R)	- explore the development and sharing of a common hardware library of chiplelets and their military applications. This will require a thorough analysis of possible architectures, and the design of minimum one military application.

EDF CALL TOPICS 2025 : indicative summary*

Categories of actions	Topic	Short description
9. Air combat	- Collaborative air combat (D) (Follow-on)	- defining design rules and developing standardised solutions for future mission and collaborative air combat systems or for existing mission systems undergoing evolution.
	- Enhanced pilot environment (D) (Follow-on)	- develop and prototype new and increasingly sophisticated sets of equipment and associated software designed to free crew members from repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus their resources on high-value areas of action , thereby improving combat effectiveness.
11. Ground combat	- Demonstrators and technologies for renewal of counter-battery capabilities (R)	- bring to maturity the technologies required to destroy or neutralise the artillery potential of enemies , thereby ensuring the survival of own forces and safeguarding their operational capacity.
	- Future modular multifunctional land platforms (D) (Follow-on)	- further develop the technologies required to enhance the performance and effectiveness of armoured land platform systems in high-intensity operations , making them more capable, modular, multifunctional and energy efficient by maximising synergies, standardisation and interoperability of armoured land vehicle families.
	- Land collaborative combat including air-land (D) (Follow-on)	- further mature the required collaborative functions and to develop, up to system prototyping and demonstration, a wide range of new collaborative capabilities , such as, but not limited to, tactical information sharing, collaborative force protection including responsive actions, collaborative Threat Evaluation and Weapon Assignment (TEWA) to support decision-making, joint engagement and firing, unmanned systems supervision and coordination, joint logistics.
	- Affordable mass munitions (D)	- this call topic focuses on drone-based solutions, and in particular on the concept of the " one-way attack UAV ", with the aim of developing affordable and mass-produced UAVs that can be used against a conventional adversary to gain a decisive tactical advantage in future high-intensity ground combat scenarios. Particular emphasis will be placed on the innovation of precision-guided and intelligent munitions systems and the associated targeting, guidance, control and electronic warfare navigation system countermeasures, with affordability and mass production as guiding principles.
12. Force protection and mobility	- Full-size demonstrators for soldier systems (D) (Follow-on)	- further develop the European Next Generation Dismounted Soldier System (ENG DSS), based on an updated open architecture, with advanced individual and networking capabilities for protection, survivability, sustainability, accuracy, and C4ISTAR (Command, Control, Communication, Computing, Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Reconnaissance) in non-permissive, multi-domain environments.

EDF CALL TOPICS 2025 : indicative summary*

Categories of actions	Topic	Short description
13. Naval combat	- Digital ship and naval cloud combat (D) (Follow-on)	- build on the work done under the topics EDF-2021-NAVAL-R-DSSDA on Digital ship and ship digital architecture, EDF-2021-NAVAL-R-SSHM on Ship Structural Health Monitoring and EDF-2021-DIGIT-D on Cloud technologies, EDF-2022-DA-NAVAL-NCS on Naval Collaborative Surveillance, and EDF-2024-DA-NAVAL-FNP on Functional smart system-of-systems under an integral survivability approach for future naval platforms, with a view to design, prototype and test a digital platform, and launch the initial design of a multidomain naval combat cloud which covers the gap between the cloud at naval platform level and the global and joint inter-services combat cloud.
14. Underwater warfare	- Stand-off ASW, phase 1 (of 3) (R)	- identification of feasible common effector components , like V/ULW (light weight) torpedoes or depth charges, which can be deployed by systems such as Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAV)/ Uncrewed Surface Vehicles (USV) for reconnaissance and surveillance, affordable precision strike capability, or deploying sensors like sonobuoys, in a configuration similar to the multiple launch rocket system.
	- Advanced underwater networks (D)	- design, develop and prototype a sophisticated, integrated network of sensors and systems consisting of sensor networks with a view to enhance underwater and surface situational awareness , that would aid multiple warfighting areas related to underwater environment, but also to protection of critical underwater infrastructure.
15. Simulation and training	- Multi-disciplinary design and analysis framework for Aerial Systems (System of Systems' Digital Twin) (R)	- develop digital and fully coupled simulation capabilities (i.e. Digital Twins) for a multi-functional and high-fidelity aerial system design, including certification-relevant data. This framework should include an aerodynamic, structural, flight control system, general system, embedded software, and design capabilities from level-zero to high-fidelity modelling , with the ability to provide tightly and loosely coupled multidisciplinary simulations.
	- Live, Virtual, Constructive training interoperability – Joint operations and service-specific solutions (R)	- explore interoperability of different Live, Virtual and Constructive (LVC) entities across EU Member States and EDF Associated Countries and industries , as LVC is likely to be instrumental in delivering cost-effective and realistic joint and combined training at the tactical level.
16. Disruptive technologies	- High Depth Enabling Technologies (R)	- this research must prioritise the provision of technologies to EU defence capabilities that will enable solutions for monitoring and defence of critical underwater assets and for responding to threats in deep waters up to 6000 meters in depth.

Criterion 1: Excellence



*Contribution to excellence or potential of disruption in the defence domain, in particular by showing that the expected results of the proposed action present **significant advantages over existing defence products or technologies***

- Excellence of the overall concept and soundness of the proposed approach for the solution
- Compliance with the objectives, scope, targeted activities, functional requirements and expected impact
- Advantage (strategic, technological or operational) over existing defence products or technologies; potential of disruption in the defence domain

Criterion 2: Innovation



Contribution to the **innovation and technological development** of the European defence industry, in particular by showing that the proposed action includes ground-breaking or novel concepts and approaches, new promising future technological improvements or the application of technologies or concepts previously not applied in defence sector, while avoiding unnecessary duplication

- Innovation potential, ground breaking concepts (e.g. new products, services, business models...), new technological applications to defence sector
- Take due account (and integration with) past/ongoing activities in the defence/civil sectors
- Spin-off to other defence applications/products

Criterion 3: Competitiveness



*Contribution to the competitiveness of the European defence industry by showing that the proposed action is a demonstrably **positive balance of cost-efficiency and effectiveness** thus creating new market opportunities across the Union and beyond and accelerating the growth of companies throughout the Union.*

- Competitive advantage of the product/technology/solution vis-a-vis existing or planned solutions
- Potential to accelerate the growth of companies (including market analysis)
- Strength of the IP strategy (e.g. patents) associated with the solution

Criterion 4: EDTIB autonomy



*Contribution to the autonomy of the European Defence Technological Industrial Base (EDTIB), including by **increasing the non-dependency** on non-Union sources and strengthening security of supply, and to the security and defence interests of the Union in line with the priorities referred to in Article 3*

- Increasing the Union's industrial and technological non-dependency
- EU security of supply
- Contribution to defence capability priorities agreed by MS (e.g. CDP, regional priorities...)

Criterion 5: New cross-border cooperation



Contribution to the creation of **new cross-border cooperation** between legal entities established in Member States or associated countries, in particular **SMEs and mid-caps with a substantial participation** in the action, as recipients, subcontractors or as other legal entities in the supply chain, and which are established in Member States or associated countries other than those where the legal entities cooperating within a consortium which are not SMEs or mid-caps are established.

- *Qualitative assessment in part B. Quantitative information on SME and mid-caps participation in Detailed budget table.*
- Creation of new cross-border cooperation in particular targeting SME and mid-caps
- Planned future cross-border cooperation
- Extent and added value of SME and mid-caps contribution to the action

Criterion 6: Life cycle efficiency



The contribution to **increasing efficiency across the life cycle** of defence products and technologies, including cost-effectiveness and the potential for synergies in the procurement, maintenance and disposal processes.

- Improvements compared to existing solutions as regards lower production, operational, in-service support costs
 - Simplification of processes or combination with existing ones
- ✓ *Only for Development actions*
- ✓ *Assessed for all development actions, even if not covering activity type i) increasing efficiency*

Criterion 7: MS cooperation



The contribution to the further **integration of the European defence industry** throughout the Union through the demonstration by the recipients that Member States have undertaken to jointly use, own or maintain the final product or technology in a coordinated manner.

- Number of Member States involved
 - Contribution to integration of EU defence industry and increase cooperation
- ✓ *Only for Development actions*
- ✓ *Assessed for all development actions, also in cases in which the joint use/ownership/... is not an eligibility criteria as per the activities (e) prototyping to (h) certification*
- ✓ *Part B and supporting documents (e.g. Letter of Intent)*

Criterion 8: Implementation



Quality and efficiency of the carrying out of the action

- Structure of the work plan including timing and inter-relation of the work packages
- Usefulness and comprehensiveness of the milestones and deliverables
- Management structures and procedures including decision making and risk management
- Consortium resources and allocation of tasks ensuring that all participants have a valid and complementary role