



Brussels, 21.6.2023
C(2023) 4252 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 21.6.2023

**on the financing of the European Defence Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/697
of the European Parliament and of the Council and the adoption of the work
programme for 2024 - Part I**

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on the financing of the European Defence Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the adoption of the work programme for 2024 - Part I

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092², and in particular Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the European Defence Fund for the year 2024 it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (4) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (5) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (6) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p.149.

- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Defence Fund Programme Committee, established by Article 34 of Regulation 2021/697.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the first part of the annual work programme for the implementation of the European Defence Fund for 2024 – Part I, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2024 - Part I is set at EUR 390 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 13.0201 - Capability development: EUR 339 000 000;
- (b) budget line 13.0301 - Defence research: EUR 51 000 000;

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2024, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in that Annex .

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 21.6.2023

For the Commission
Thierry BRETON
Member of the Commission



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

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ANNEX

1. INTRODUCTION

The EDF is implemented through annual work programmes from 2021 to 2027.

The adoption of the 2023 EDF work programme - Part II is subject of a separate financing decision.

The limited purpose of this 2024 EDF work programme-part I is to bring budget complement to some actions described in detail in the 2023 EDF work programme - Part II to enable the launching in 2023 of calls for proposals with indicative amounts higher than the ones possible on the sole basis of 2023 appropriations.

The second part of the 2024 work programme will be subject of a separate financing decision to be adopted in due time later in the year with new actions which will then be detailed.

2023 EDF calls for proposals to be reinforced by 2024 appropriations	(Million EUR)		
	Amount earmarked in the 2023 WP Part II	Complementary amount under the 2024 WP Part I	Indicative amount for the actions launched in 2023
<i>Call EDF-2023-DA: Development actions</i>	375.5	339	714.5
<i>Call EDF-2023-RA: Research actions</i>	130	27	157
<i>Framework partnership agreement for a defence medical countermeasures Alliance</i>	1.3	23.7	25

In addition, EUR 300 000 are earmarked for payment of independent experts assisting the Commission in the evaluation of EDF proposals (remunerated experts referred to in Article 237 of the Financial Regulation).

The list of *calls for proposals* and associated *Topics* addressed in this 2024 work programme - Part I is defined in section 3.

2. LEGAL BASIS

All actions that will be funded under this programme have their legal basis in Regulation (EU) 2021/697 (EDF Regulation).

3. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE 2024 WORK PROGRAMME - PART I

This section lists the scope of the *calls for proposals* and associated *topics*, as well as with regard to the implementation of a *framework partnership agreement*, together with their indicative budget, as resulting from a discussion with the EDF programme committee made of representatives from the Member States and associated countries.

Management mode:

As per Article 8(1) of the EDF Regulation and unless otherwise provided for in the present work programme, the actions set out in this work programme shall be implemented in direct management by the Commission.

By way of derogation, in accordance with Article 8(2) of the EDF Regulation, specific actions may, in substantiated cases, be carried out under indirect management by bodies as referred to in point (c) of Article 62(1) of the Financial Regulation, for example in case of complex actions where a project manager has been appointed by Member States, taking into account in particular the complexity of the action and the experience of the proposed body.

The change of management mode set in the present work programme will be assessed after the selection of proposals retained for funding and be subject to the prior assessment of the bodies in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation in order to ensure the protection of the financial interest of the EU. The responsible Authorising Officer is authorised to conclude a contribution agreement with entities that have satisfactorily passed the priori assessment referred to in Article 154 of the Financial Regulation. If the terms of a contribution agreement cannot be successfully agreed with a pillar assessed entity in due time, the concerned project(s) may be managed in direct management by the Commission.

3.1. EDF-2023-DA

- **Targeted type of actions:** Development actions
- **Form of funding:** Actual costs grants following the call for proposals
- **Targeted type of applicants:** Any eligible consortium as defined in Articles 9 and 10(4) of the EDF Regulation
- **Indicative budget for the call:**
 EUR 375 500 000 has been earmarked under the 2023 work programme - Part II.
A budget complement of EUR 339 000 000 from 2024 appropriations is earmarked under the present 2024 work programme - part I.
- **Number of proposals to be funded:** Several proposals, addressing different topics, may be funded

Proposals will be called against the following 17 topics, as described in the 2023 EDF work programme - Part II:

<i>Topic ID</i>	Topic name	Indicative budget¹ (Up to EUR million)
<i>EDF-2023-DA-MCBRN-FCS</i>	Federating CBRN systems	15
<i>EDF-2023-DA-C4ISR-LCOM</i>	Laser communications	17
<i>EDF-2023-DA-C4ISR-TRPAS</i>	Tactical RPAS	42
<i>EDF-2023-DA-C4ISR-DAA</i>	Detect and avoid	40
<i>EDF-2023-DA-SENS-GRID</i>	Sensor grid	27

¹ Including 2023 and 2024 appropriations

<i>EDF-2023-DA-CYBER-CSA</i>	Cyber situational awareness	20
<i>EDF-2023-DA-CYBER-DAAI</i>	Deployable autonomous AI Agent	26
<i>EDF-2023-DA-SPACE-SSA</i>	Initial operational capacity for Space situational awareness C2 and sensors	100
<i>EDF-2023-DA-MATCOMP-MJR-CBDIN</i>	Technologies and processes for maintenance, joining and repair through an innovation test hub	30
<i>EDF-2023-DA-AIR-STFS</i>	Smart technologies for next generation fighter systems	30
<i>EDF-2023-DA-AIR-SPS</i>	Self-protection systems	33
<i>EDF-2023-DA-AIRDEF-CUAS</i>	Counter-UAS capabilities	43
<i>EDF-2023-DA-GROUND-MBT</i>	Main battle tank platform systems	20
<i>EDF-2023-DA-GROUND-IFS</i>	Long-range indirect fire support capabilities for precision and high efficiency strikes	27
<i>EDF-2023-DA-NAVAL-MMPC</i>	Modular and multirole patrol corvette	154.5
<i>EDF-2023-DA-UWW-ASW</i>	Unmanned anti-submarine and seabed warfare	45
<i>EDF-2023-DA-UWW-MCMC</i>	Mine counter-measures capabilities	45

Management mode:

- EDF-2023-DA-NAVAL-MMPC (Modular and multirole patrol corvette): Action implemented in indirect management by the Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en Matière d'Armement / Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation (OCCAR).
- EDF-2023-DA-MATCOMP-MJR-CBDIN (Technologies and processes for maintenance, joining and repair through an innovation test hub): Action implemented in indirect management by the European Defence Agency (EDA).

3.2. EDF-2023-RA

- **Targeted type of actions:** Research actions
- **Form of funding:** Actual costs grants following the call for proposals
- **Targeted type of applicants:** Any eligible consortium as defined in Articles 9 and 10(4) of the EDF Regulation
- **Indicative budget for the call:**
EUR 130 000 000 has been earmarked under the 2023 work programme - Part II.
A budget complement of EUR 27 000 000 from 2024 appropriations is earmarked under the present 2024 work programme - part I.
- **Number of proposals to be funded:** Several proposals, addressing different topics, may be funded

Proposals will be called against the following 7 topics, as described in the 2023 EDF work programme - Part II:

<i>Topic ID</i>	Topic name	Indicative budget² (Up to EUR million)
<i>EDF-2023-RA-SENS-EMSP</i>	Electromagnetic signal propagation	22
<i>EDF-2023-RA-SENS-OPTD</i>	Optronics detector technologies	20
<i>EDF-2023-RA-SPACE-PSA</i>	Threats surveillance and protection of space-based assets	25
<i>EDF-2023-RA-DIGIT-HAAI</i>	Dedicated hardware architectures for energy-efficient AI	20
<i>EDF-2023-RA-PROTMOB-DEXPLO</i>	Demonstrators and technologies to defeat Unexploded Explosives Ordnances (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)	25
<i>EDF-2023-RA-PROTMOB-SATOC</i>	Strategic air transportation of outsized cargo	20
<i>EDF-2023-RA-DIS-LDEW</i>	Laser-based directed energy weapons	25

3.3. Framework partnership agreement for a defence medical countermeasures Alliance

- **Type of actions:** Specific grant agreements awarded without call for proposals in relation to a Framework Partnership Agreement.
- **Targeted type of activities:** Research activities
- **Form of funding:** Actual costs grant
- **Indicative budget for the call:**
EUR 1 300 000 has been earmarked under the 2023 work programme - Part II.
A budget complement of EUR 23 700 000 from 2024 appropriations is earmarked under the present 2024 work programme - part I.
- **Number of proposals to be funded:** Several proposals may be funded

² Including 2023 and 2024 appropriations