



Guide for Applicants

Open Call 1

Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	5
1.1. Resilmesh project.....	5
1.2. Programme Overview.....	6
1.3. Structure of the Document	8
2. General Information	8
2.1. Technical Acronyms.....	8
2.2. Terms and Definitions.....	9
2.3. Eligibility Criteria.....	12
2.3.1. Type of Beneficiary	12
2.3.2. Eligible countries	13
2.4. Number of proposals to be supported	13
2.5. Support provided	13
2.6. Language.....	14
2.7. Document Formats	14
2.8. Multiple Submissions.....	14
2.9. Absence of Conflict of Interest	14
2.10. Ethical Issues	14
2.11. Origin of the funds	15
2.12. Data Protection	15
2.13. Fixed Dates and Tentative Dates	15
2.14. Miscellaneous.....	16
3. Scope of the Open Call	16
3.1. Challenges	16
3.1.1. Extension to new domains and systems	16
3.1.2. New Analytic Algorithms and Architectures	17
3.1.3. Stream Processing of Security Events.....	17
3.1.4. Security Operations	18

3.2.	Additional Datasets	18
3.3.	Resilmesh Technological Infrastructure	18
4.	Proposal Submission Process	19
4.1.	Open Call Publication	19
4.2.	Proposal Preparation	19
4.3.	Proposal Submission	20
4.4.	Check list for application submission	20
5.	Proposal Evaluation and Selection	21
5.1.	Proposal Eligibility Criteria.....	21
5.2.	Eligibility & Technical checklist	22
5.3.	Evaluation criteria and thresholds	22
5.4.	Ranking.....	23
5.5.	External Remote Evaluation.....	23
5.6.	Online Internal Interview	24
5.7.	Selection.....	24
5.8.	Redress Process.....	25
6.	Implementation and reporting	26
6.1.	Onboarding Phase	26
6.1.1.	Contract preparation and signature.....	26
6.1.2.	Refinement of workplan and KPIs.....	28
6.2.	Sprints	28
6.2.1.	Sprint 1.....	28
6.2.2.	Sprint 2.....	28
6.2.3.	Sprint 3.....	29
6.3.	Milestone evaluation	29
6.3.1.	Sprint 1: Evaluation.....	29
6.3.2.	Sprint 2 Evaluation.....	30
6.3.3.	Sprint 3 Evaluation.....	30
6.4.	Resilmesh Events	31
6.5.	Internal Communication	31

7.	Responsibilities of Beneficiaries.....	32
7.1.	Conflict of Interest.....	32
7.2.	Data Protection and Confidentiality	32
7.3.	Promoting the Action and Give Visibility to The EU Funding	33
7.4.	Financial Audits and Controls	34
8.	Intellectual Property Rights	36
8.1.	Access Rights for Resilmesh.....	36
8.2.	Data ownership.....	37
9.	Contacts.....	38

1. Introduction

The Guide for Applicants defines all the rules and procedures of the first *Open Call* of the Resilmesh project. In this report we overview its contents.

1.1. Resilmesh project

That “complexity is the enemy of security” is a well-accepted maxim. This is especially true for the computing and communications digital infrastructures and services that support our everyday social and economic activities. The dramatic growth of these systems has created major challenges for security teams:

1. Digital infrastructure attack surfaces have increased. These systems are complex—they contain multiple infrastructure layers with many types of components (edge, cloud, IoT etc.). This creates dependencies between organisation business processes (missions) and the hardware and software assets that support them, which in turn facilitates multiple attack entry points (vectors). Digital infrastructures are heterogeneous i.e., composed of many different technologies (e.g., due to the blurring of Information and Operational Technology (IT/OT) boundaries. This further increases the range of potential attack vectors. Digital infrastructures are dispersed over wide geographical areas (cloud/edge/endpoint) making traditional perimeter-based security approaches increasingly ineffective and creating yet more attack vectors.
2. Digital infrastructure attacks have become more complex and sophisticated. Advanced persistent threats (APT’s) with a focus on specific targets over an extended time period are particularly sinister. They typically seek to exfiltrate information or impede critical aspects of a mission or organization. They are increasingly based on multi attack vector approaches including, for example, cyber, physical, and deception vectors. They are often carried out by nation state adversarial actors.
3. Organisations are slow to adapt their security systems to the changes in their security architectures, practices, and infrastructure. This requires adopting techniques such as Zero Trust (ZT)/Secure Systems Edge (SSE) to deal with distribution and complexity. However, almost 80 percent of critical infrastructure organizations don’t yet adopt access control approaches based on zero-trust strategies e.g., a lack of ZT-based network isolation techniques in the Irish health system presented ransomware attackers seamless access to almost 10000 IT hosts running dozens of software systems. OT systems especially are slow to adopt ZT.

Resilmesh will help organisations achieve higher levels of security and resilience by providing them with methods and tools to better manage the complexity of their digital infrastructures and services, combat advanced persistent threats (APT’S).

The project has identified three digital infrastructure domains that will act as early adopters and amplifiers of Resilmesh solutions: (i) renewable energy (ii) civic regional

infrastructure and (iii) flexible manufacturing. Digital infrastructure domains include a wide range of civil and critical infrastructures that have very varying technologies, topologies, and application requirements. Topologies can be widely dispersed (water and energy infrastructures), concentrated in a few locations (manufacturing, health) or widespread (communications infrastructure). Digital infrastructure resources are a combination of constrained (IoT/edge) and powerful (cloud) computing devices and maybe a single technology (IT or OT) or a mix of both. Resilmesh use case pilots have thus been carefully chosen to demonstrate the applicability of the Resilmesh approach across these different digital infrastructure S domains and are also designed to validate the full complement of platform features over the three use cases. Two use-case pilots will be conducted; the first will to introduce the platform to the end-users and to iron out any teething problems and the second will to evaluate the platform performance under TRL7 conditions. Moreover, the platform provides baked-in extensibility 'hot-spots'/hooks to facilitate the easy addition of new platform functions as well use of the platform in new domains. Resilmesh will specify two competitive open calls for third parties to augment the scope and range of the platform. The first call will be open to cybersecurity application and software developers to provide new platform components e.g. new anomaly detection or correlation algorithms, while the second call will be reserved for use-cases which will be selected to ensure use of the platform in new critical infrastructure domains. Resilmesh will follow a work plan designed to maximise impact, where the development and evaluation are based on an iterative and human-centred co-design approach. The iterative approach and involvement of relevant stakeholders from the start of the project will support and facilitate an iterative technical development process, in which user feedback is provided and integrated in the whole development cycle. The Resilmesh consortium is comprised of 11 leading partners in the area of cybersecurity defence and AI (7 academic institutions and 4 industrial partners) and 3 critical infrastructure operators. Through its specific dissemination, communication, and exploitation actions, Resilmesh will contribute to key resilience improvements identified by NIS2.0 and the Recommendation to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure, including improved situational awareness, CTI sharing, risk assessment and capacity building.

1.2. Programme Overview

The *Open Call* is the competitive process by which SMEs apply to have access to the Resilmesh programme. The project will select four proposals, each addressing one of the challenges defined in section 3, providing a maximum contribution of 90K€, to be paid in form of lump sums at the end of each sprint (30%+40%+30%)

The Resilmesh Programme is organised in three sprints of three months. Sprint 1 from January to March 2025, Sprint 2 from April to June 2025, Sprint 3 from July to September 2025. During this phase the SMEs will have the support of one mentor to monitor project progress and facilitate communication with technical partners.

Table 1 Open Call and Implementation timeline

Open call												
Activity	2024											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Open call application (Oct 16th 5PM CET)												
Eligibility & Application evaluation												
Online interviews												
Announcement of the results												
Contracting and onboarding												
Implementation												
Activity	2025											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Implementation Sprints												
Timeframe for Resilmesh Events												
Evaluation period for each sprint												
Payments (Depend on the result of the evaluation)												

Open call application: Fill in and submit the Application Form and Technical Proposal.

Eligibility & Application evaluation: Resilmesh Consortium performs internal checks of the eligibility criteria of the applications. An evaluation board reviews the received proposals scoring them based on the evaluation criteria. The evaluators rank the applications and selected the top-ranked projects in online interviews.

Online interviews: Applicants pitch the project to the evaluators, and the evaluators ask questions about elements they want to clarify regarding the application.

Announcement of the results: All applicants receive a written letter about approval or rejection of their project. The successful projects start the onboarding phase in the Resilmesh Open Call Implementation

Contracting and onboarding: Selected applicants provide additional legal documents to draft and sign the contracts with the Resilmesh coordinator

Implementation Sprints: Three sprints of three months each to deliver the work proposed in the application form.

Timeframe for Resilmesh Events: Selected projects may need to attend up to two mandatory events in Europe for project evaluation and or dissemination.

Evaluation period for each sprint: Evaluation by the Resilmesh consortium of the results achieved by the participants and decision on acceptance or rejection of deliverables

Payments: Depending on the result of the evaluation, submission of the payment request, verification and transfer of funds to the participants.

Relevant Links and Contacts

Project website: <https://resilmesh.eu/>

Open call application form: <https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-1>

Helpdesk: resilmesh@f6s.com

1.3. Structure of the Document

The Guide for Applicants, this document, groups relevant information for interested parties to understand the project, the technical infrastructure and the rules and procedures for the open call. Section 1 (Introduction) provides an overview of the project and the programme. Sections 2 and 3 provide general information and define the scope of the Open Call. Sections 4 and 5 define the procedures and rules of the application procedure, selection and redress requests. Sections 6 to 9 define the structure of the Resilmesh Programme and specific conditions for programme implementation.

2. General Information

2.1. Technical Acronyms

Table 2 Technical Acronyms

Term / Expression	Definition
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AID	AI-based Detector
APT	Advanced Persistent Threat (APT)
CSA	Cyber Situational Awareness
CTI	Cyber Threat Intelligence
AIC	AI-Correlation
CASM	Cyber Attack Surface Management
DN	Data Normalization
ESP	Event Stream Processing
EE	Event Enrichment
EA	Event Aggregator
FL	Federated learning
ISIM	Infrastructure and Services Model
IDS	Intrusion detection systems (IDS)
IPS	Intrusion prevention systems (IPS)
MM	Mitigation Manager

Term / Expression	Definition
ML	Machine Learning
MB	Message Broker
NSE	Network Status Evaluation
PT	PlayBook Tool
PPLF	Privacy-preserving Federated Learning
RM	Resource Orchestrator
RCTI	Robust CTI
SOAPA	Security Orchestration and Analytics Platform Architecture
SOAR	Security Automation, Orchestration and Response
SM	Service Mesh
SIEM	Security Incident and Event Manager
THF	Threat Hunting and Forensics
UEBA	User Entity and Behavioural Analytics
WO	Workflow Orchestrator
XDR	eXtended Detection and Response

2.2. Terms and Definitions

Table 3 Terms and definitions

Term / Expression	Definition
Applicant	SME or set of legal entities led by an SME that intends to submit or submitted a proposal to the open call.
Application Eligibility Criteria	Criteria used to assess if an application can be considered for the open call. Possible values (Yes/No)
Application Eligible or Non-Eligible	Application that is or is not compliant with eligibility criteria
Application Timestamp	Timestamp of the final submission of an application. If the application is reopened and resubmitted the last date will be considered.

Term / Expression	Definition
Beneficiary or 3rd Party	An SME or a consortium submitted a proposal to the open call which was accepted to be funded, and have a signed, or are in the process of signing, a sub-grant agreement.
Contract Deadline	Date and time until when the selected SMEs need to provide contractual information.
External Evaluator	Expert hired by the consortium to assist in the evaluation of proposals. External evaluators cannot have conflicts of interest and are bounded by a confidentiality agreement.
F6S Application Form	Application form available in F6S Platform
F6S Platform	Platform provided by F6S
FSTP	Financial support to third parties. Payments made to entities that are not members of the consortium.
FSTP – Lump Sum	Payment made to the third party based on the achievement of a milestone.
Internal evaluation committee	Set of at least three appropriately qualified persons members of the staff of the consortium that are assigned the responsibility of performing evaluations in any stage of the open call implementation.
Mentor	Person from the consortium that works closely with the beneficiary to foster communication with the consortium and assess progress of the project. The mentor may be part of an evaluation committee.
Open Call	Competitive process to access the Resilmesh Programme.
Open Call close date	Date and time when applications close.
Open Call Selection Prioritization	Rules used to order applications.
Reserve List	Eligible applications that were not selected for funding which can be invited in case selected applications do not provide contractual data.
Resilmesh Consortium or Consortium	Set of legal entities that are cumulatively responsible to implement the Resilmesh project as defined in the Grant Agreement for project number 101119681
Schedule for payments to Beneficiaries	All payments do beneficiaries are dependent on successful evaluation of deliverables in the end of each

Term / Expression	Definition
	<p>sprint, and reception by the consortium of the corresponding payment request.</p> <p>All payments will be made with undue delay preferably no later than 30 calendar days after the reception of the financial statement.</p>
Score, Expert	<p>Unless otherwise stated, experts in will rank each criterion with marks between 0 and 5. Half point scores are not given.</p> <p>Score values will indicate the following assessments:</p> <p>0: Fail. The application fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.</p> <p>1: Very poor. The criterion is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner.</p> <p>2: Poor. There are serious inherent weaknesses.</p> <p>3: Good. While the application broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting.</p> <p>4: Very Good. The application addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible.</p> <p>5: Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.</p>
Score, Per Committee	<p>When the evaluation is made by a committee the average score of each criterion is rounded to the nearest point or half point (1, 1.5, 2, ..., 4, 4.5, 5), before computing the overall score.</p> <p>Overall score is the sum of the scores of each criterion multiplied by the respective weight, rounded to the nearest integer value.</p>
Selected application	<p>Application that was selected to participate in the Open Call Implementation.</p>

Term / Expression	Definition
SME	An incorporated enterprise that complies with the rules defined by the European Commission to be qualified as an SME ¹
SME – Autonomous Enterprise	An autonomous enterprise is not a partner with or linked to another enterprise
SME – Linked Enterprise	Linked enterprises are those that form a group through the direct or indirect control of the majority of voting rights of an enterprise by another or through the ability to exercise a dominant influence on an enterprise.
SME – Partner Enterprise	The enterprise holds a minimum of 25% (Capital or voting rights in another enterprise, or 25% (Capital or voting rights) are owned by another enterprise.

2.3. Eligibility Criteria

2.3.1. Type of Beneficiary

The accepted applicants for the Resilmesh Open Calls are:

- *Legal entities or consortia of legal entities*, which can be either mid-caps, SMEs or research organisations (RTOs or academia).
- In the case of consortium-type applications, the leading partner will be responsible for the technical developments, the other member will be an end user responsible to validate the technical developments.
- An SME will be considered as such if complying with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and the SME qualification guide. As a summary, the criteria which define an SME are:
 - a) Independent (not linked or owned by another enterprise), in accordance with Recommendation 2003/361/EC.
 - b) Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250.
 - c) Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

¹https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/conferences/state-aid/sme/smedefinitionguide_en.pdf

- Start-ups that do not have yet annual turnover or balance sheets are also considered eligible given that they fulfil the criteria (a) and (b) of the SME definition.
- In case an SME enters the Resilmesh Open Call it will remain eligible even if, at a certain point during the sub-project execution, it does not fulfil criteria (b) or (c) of the SME definition.
- The organisations must not have had convictions for fraudulent behaviour, other financial irregularities, unethical or illegal business practices.
- The organisations must not have been declared bankrupt or have initiated bankruptcy procedures.
- The organisations must not be under liquidation and are not enterprises under difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18.
- The organisations must not be excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of either national or EU authority.
- We note that a signed version of the Honour Declaration and the SME Declaration will be requested during the contract preparation phase.

2.3.2. Eligible countries

Applicants from the following countries are eligible to receive funding through this Open Call:

- A legal entity established and based in one of the EU Member or a Horizon Europe Associated country.

2.4. Number of proposals to be supported

The Resilmesh Project will select **four** proposals to be funded.

2.5. Support provided

During the Open Call Implementation, the Selected Applicants will receive the following support:

- Direct funding (FSTP) of €90.000 in the form of lump sum following the procedures defined in Section 6.
- Technical support from the consortium to facilitate integration with Resilmesh technical infrastructure.
- A dedicated Mentor to monitor project progress.

2.6. Language

English is the official language of the Resilmesh project. Submissions done in any other language will not be eligible and will not be evaluated. English is also the only official language during the whole execution of the Resilmesh Open Call. This means that all communication will be in English, and all deliverables will only be accepted if in English.

2.7. Document Formats

Unless otherwise stated in specific questions of the application form, any document requested in any of the phases must be submitted electronically in PDF format without restrictions for printing.

2.8. Multiple Submissions

We will only accept one application per applicant. In case an applicant submits more than one proposal, only the application submitted first will be considered. Later applications will be deemed ineligible.

2.9. Absence of Conflict of Interest

Applicants shall not have any actual or/and potential conflict of interest with the Resilmesh selection process and during the project implementation. All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case by a review committee.

The Resilmesh consortium partners, its affiliated entities, employees, and permanent co-operators cannot become a recipient of support via the Open Call. This would be in breach of the European Commission's rules.

2.10. Ethical Issues

Resilmesh complies with the fundamental ethical issues particularly those outlined in the "European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity".

All applicants must submit a self-assessment ethics questionnaire, available in the Technical Proposal, to confirm that their proposal does or does not have ethical issues. If there is a Yes-answer contact the Resilmesh Helpdesk for guidance, as required. The Resilmesh consortium may check during the evaluation of a proposal if this declaration is in line with the contents of the proposal itself and reserves itself the right to contact the companies for clarification and eventually take necessary steps depending on the ethical issues. Proposals that fail to properly address ethical issues or inadequately deal with privacy aspects will be rejected.

2.11. Origin of the funds

Any selected proposer will sign a dedicated Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement with the Resilmesh consortium. The funds attached to the Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement come directly from the funds of the European Project Resilmesh funded itself by the European Commission, and remain therefore, property of the EU until the payment of the balance, whose management rights have been transferred to the project partners in Resilmesh via European Commission Grant Agreement Number 101119681.

As it can be seen in the Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement template, this relation between the sub-grantees and the European Commission through Resilmesh project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grantees with the European Commission. It is the task of the sub-grantees to accomplish them, and of the Resilmesh consortium partners to inform about them.

2.12. Data Protection

In order to process and evaluate applications, the Resilmesh consortium will need to collect personal and industrial data. F6S Network Ireland Limited (F6S), will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. Please see our privacy policy [here](#). A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S generally, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner.

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer to <https://www.f6s.com/privacy-policy> to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S Google Drive, and in the project repository on MS Teams managed by the project coordinator Technical University of the Shannon.

Please note that the Resilmesh consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the Resilmesh project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until they end.

2.13. Fixed Dates and Tentative Dates

The Resilmesh project has planned the Open Call to ensure that each phase has enough time allocated to each phase for successful completion. The project recognizes that unforeseen events might occur.

To keep transparency and fairness among applicants the Open Call close is fixed and will only be updated in case of unforeseen events.

All other dates mentioned in this document are tentative and may be updated to accommodate specific needs of the applicants and the Consortium.

2.14. Miscellaneous

Should any decision-making concerns that are not covered by this document emerge, we will make the final decision in the spirit of transparency and fairness in the decision-making process.

3. Scope of the Open Call

The Resilmesh project aims to extend the capabilities of the Resilmesh platform by selecting systems actors/innovators (mid-caps, SMEs start-ups, and researchers) that are developing technologies that can extend the capabilities of Resilmesh, by addressing one of the four challenges and contributing with additional datasets.

3.1. Challenges

3.1.1. Extension to new domains and systems

This is concerned with extending i) the **detection capabilities** of Resilmesh to new OT domains - other than the three addressed directly within the project already or new OT protocols and device types and/or ii) the interoperability of Resilmesh third party security controls and tools. Examples include but are not limited to:

- **Novel OT/IT Datasets:** This extension refers to the development, deployment and testing of innovative monitoring/probes agents as well as data processors that can gather, in real-time, data from underlying IT/OT infrastructure – other than the three domains already addressed within the project - and calculate novel and meaningful metrics and features not present in current state of the art datasets. The resultant set of data features will generate a novel dataset that can be used afterwards for the Resilmesh AI-detection engine(s) for training. In addition, the proposed monitoring agents and data processors can be deployed in Resilmesh for real-time anomaly detection.
- **Extension of the Asset Management functions** through Integration of new device types to ISIM + new applications based on ISIM/CASM: ISIM is the Resilmesh asset database and is developed in the project for a number of project use case device types. It is intended however to be extended to integrate

new areas (e.g. OT domains or cloud/containerised IT systems) and the device types within these domains.

3.1.2. New Analytic Algorithms and Architectures

User and Entity Behaviour Analytics (UEBA) shifts the focus of detection from Indicator of Compromise (IoC) approaches to focus on higher level Indicators of Behaviour (IoB). UEBA can apply to both endpoint and network traffic behaviours. One approach here could be to extend the Resilmesh NDR functional component with network behaviour analytics such as those identified in the Network Traffic Analysis category in the Mitre D3FEND taxonomy (<https://d3fend.mitre.org/>). UEBA analytics for IIoT/OT infrastructure in particular are of interest.

- **Novel edge AI AD architectures:** The deployment of edge-based AI opens many possibilities for experimenting with different algorithms and architectures, taking into consideration the needs of the domain and the data. Some possible approaches might be:
 - User Ensemble methods
 - Distributed deep learning
 - Incremental learning
 - Edge-to-Edge Collaborative Anomaly Detection

These are suggestions and there can be many other approaches.

This is not an exhaustive list. Other possible approaches may also be suggested.

3.1.3. Stream Processing of Security Events

This involves the real-time handling of data, where computation occurs directly as data is generated or received.

Data processing pipelines based on platforms such as SPARK, KAFKA Streams, Esper etc can be used to for many purposes including the processing of security data 'on the fly' in real time e.g. for data aggregation etc. They can also enable real-time AI processing of events streaming of events such as the novel architectures.

Complex Event Processing (CEP) is a generalisation of traditional stream processing for aggregating, processing, and analysing data streams in order to gain real-time insights from events as they occur. CEP systems can be used to gain critical insights into security incident through event correlation e.g. DDoS attacks, which can help cyber and IT teams detect and prevent attacks.

Stream processing may be facilitated by the use of **Integration of a data lakehouse:** A data lakehouse is a centralised storage repository capable of accommodating structured and unstructured data at virtually any scale. It facilitates storing data in its

original format and supports a wide range of analytics, including data extraction, visualisation, big data processing, and machine learning. It consolidates data from various sources such as logs, system events, threat intelligence feeds, and others to provide a holistic perspective of security events within an organisation.

3.1.4. Security Operations

This category addresses potential expansion to Resilmesh functional components on the Security Control Plane. The goal is to demonstrate the use of Resilmesh mitigation orchestration and enforcement capabilities in OT domains. Some possibilities include:

- **Novel mitigation playbooks** for handling response for new attack types. This may require the development accompanying dataset for attack detection.
- **Development of novel software actuators** tailored for enforcing actions in OT networks and systems, such as for instance, enablers for controlling SCADA systems
- **Enhancement of Resilmesh XDR capabilities** through integration with existing EDR (Endpoint Detection and Response) systems to improve the range of attack mitigation and response controls.

3.2. Additional Datasets

Solutions are requested to contribute to Resilmesh training pool by providing additional datasets. The proposal must clearly characterize the features of the data, from data source to data sink.

When the Datasets fall in the scope of GDPR, applicants will be the sole Data Controllers. In any case Resilmesh Project Partners will be acting as Shared Data Controllers. Strong cryptographic techniques must be used to achieve data privacy when sharing model parameters.

Additionally in the cases where the experiment must be approved by an ethical committee, applicants must submit the research protocol and get approval. Resilmesh project will only be involved in checking if appropriate procedures were followed.

3.3. Resilmesh Technological Infrastructure

Full documentation on the Resilmesh Technological infrastructure is available on the project website.

4. Proposal Submission Process

4.1. Open Call Publication

The Open call is defined by the following documents:

- **Guidelines for Applicants:** This present guide aims to assist potential applicants. The document provides a full set of information regarding the Open Call for Proposals for the Resilmesh project.
- Application:
 - **Application form**, an online application form, available at F6S platform (<https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-1>).
 - **Technical Proposal**, a document that contains a full characterization of concept and work to be performed as well as , Ethical & Security details.
- Other relevant documents for the contract preparation (if selected):
 - **Bank account information**, which collects information on the applicant(s)' bank account where the Resilmesh payments will be sent to.
 - **Sub-grant Agreement Template**, which provides a template of the sub-grant agreement that the successful applicants will be requested to sign.
 - **Honour Declaration**, which declares that all conditions of the acceleration process are accepted by the applicant. One dedicated declaration is required for each partner.
 - **SME Declaration**, which evaluates the status of the SMEs participating at an acceleration process. This is only for the SME partner.
- **Frequently Asked Questions & answers** published at the community feed (<https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-1>).

4.2. Proposal Preparation

Please follow the steps:

1. For the proposal preparation, the applicants are requested to apply online and answer to all mandatory questions (with no exception) at: <https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-1>. Moreover, applicants must submit all the requested documents established for each application stage. The lack of any of the documents will negatively affect the eligibility of the company for the evaluation process.
2. If the applicants that do not accept the terms and conditions the application will not be eligible.

3. Be concrete and concise. Questions have characters' limitations. Please examine all the acceleration process/ open call documents and attend the various online and physical events promoted by the Resilmesh projects (<https://resilmesh.eu/>).
4. It is highly recommended to submit your proposal well before the deadline. If the applicant discovers an error in the proposal, and provided the call deadline has not passed, the applicant may request the F6S Resilmesh team to re-submit the proposal (for this purpose please contact us at support@f6s.com). **However, Resilmesh is not committed that resubmission in time will be feasible in case the request for resubmission is not received by the F6S Resilmesh team at least 48 hours before the call deadline.**

It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the proposal. Failure of the proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including network communications delays or working from multiple browsers or multiple browser windows, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the application as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.

4.3. Proposal Submission

The **F6S platform** will be the entry point for all proposals' submission to Resilmesh Open Calls, interested applicants should register at the Resilmesh F6S page (<https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-1>). Only proposals submitted within the Call duration will be accepted.

Proposals submitted by any other means will not be considered nor evaluated. Only the documentation included in the application will be considered by evaluators. A complete proposal comprises the **Application form** and the **Technical Proposal**.

Submissions will be done **ONLY** via the F6S platform on <https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-1> . A full list of proposers will be drafted containing their basic information for statistical purposes and clarity (which will be also shared with the European Commission for transparency).

The application reception will close as indicated in **Section 4.1**. There will not be any deadline extensions unless there is a Force Majeure situation (e.g. a major problem caused by the F6S platform and not by the proposers, makes the system unavailable for a long period).

The length of the **Technical Proposal** is limited to 20 pages, including the cover page.

4.4. Check list for application submission

Below follows key questions to consider as part of the application submission:

1. **Does your planned work fit with the call for proposals?** Check that your proposed work does indeed address one of the topics open in this call.

2. **Does your proposal address the challenges of the call?** Check that your proposed work does indeed address the domains of the call in one of the challenges.
3. **Is your proposal eligible?** The eligibility criteria are given in section 5.1. In particular, make sure that you satisfy the minimum participation requirements (entity from eligible countries).
4. **Is your proposal complete?** Have you completed all mandatory questions?
5. **Does your proposal fulfil questions requests/ comments?** Proposals should be precise, concise and must answer to requested questions, which are designed to correspond to the applied evaluation. Omitting requested information will almost certainly lead to lower scores and possible rejection.
6. **Have you maximised your chances?** There will be strong competition. Therefore, edit your proposal tightly, strengthen or eliminate weak points. Remove any superfluous content.
7. **Have you submitted your proposal before the deadline?** It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the proposal. Failure of the proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including network communications delays, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the message as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.
8. **Have you provided the necessary documents?** The Online form contains all the information and the Proposal Supplement is uploaded
9. **Do you need further advice and support?** You are strongly advised to communicate with the Resilmesh team via the Resilmesh blog in the F6S platform and via resilmesh@f6s.com.

5. Proposal Evaluation and Selection

5.1. Proposal Eligibility Criteria

The following proposals eligibility criteria also apply:

- i. Proposals must have a **clear European dimension**, and contribute towards European Union digitization, **targeting clear economic and societal impact**.
- ii. **Each SME may submit only one (1) proposal at Resilmesh Open Call #1**. In case an applicant submits more than one proposal, only the last one will be considered for evaluation.
- iii. **Proposals from Linked SMEs must demonstrate that there is no risk of double funding**. The fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU states that no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from the EU budget, as defined in the Article 111 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation. In

the case of proposals submitted by linked SMEs, all must clearly state the differences between them including but not limited to, technical aspects, market strategy and team composition, so that it remains no doubt that there is no risk of double funding. To properly assess these concerns Resilmesh may assign all proposals to the same set of evaluators and, should any doubt remain, exclude all proposals.

- iv. **The maximum amount of direct funding that an Applicant may receive via Resilmesh is 90.000 EUROS via any mean.**

5.2. Eligibility & Technical checklist

A filtering process will be held to discard non-eligible proposals will follow the checklist. The eligibility criteria check will verify:

- a) That the proposing entity, or entities for the case of consortia, is a legal entity eligible for EC funding under the rules of Horizon Europe [Y/N]
- b) That the proposing entity, or entities for the case of consortia, comply with the rules defined in 2.3.1 “Type of Beneficiary” [Y/N]
- c) That the participation rule as expressed in section 5.1 “Proposal Eligibility Criteria” is followed [Y/N].
- d) That the proposal is written in English [Y/N].
- e) That all required documentation is provided and that **all documents are submitted correctly (filled with text and using the dedicated templates)** [Y/N].
- f) That the proposal contain enough information on how Resilmesh technical infrastructure will be extended, and whether it requires External Evaluation [Y/N].

Proposals being marked as non-eligible will get a rejection letter including the relevant criteria (a) to (f) for justifying the decision. No further feedback on the process will be given.

5.3. Evaluation criteria and thresholds

The criteria to be used in the External Remote Evaluation and the Online Internal Interview are as follows:

- I. **Alignment and Excellence:** Projects must demonstrate a clear set of objectives aligned with the general objectives of the project, and the challenge they are targeting. Additionally application must demonstrate that the proposal is innovative,
- II. **Impact** Projects must demonstrate: how they will contribute to Resilmesh impact and extend the Resilmesh training datasets (Additional datasets are optional but highly valued) and the alignment with envisioned licensing model for Resilmesh.

- III. **Concept & Technology:** How the solution addresses the challenge proposed and how it advances the state of the art and its feasibility. The novelty and technology fit to Resilmesh scope, including the platforms/ technologies to be integrated, and technical capacity to achieve TRL 4-5.
- IV. **Implementation:** Applicants must provide credible evidence that the project delivery team has the necessary skills, infrastructure and management experience to be able to deliver the project, and the work plan is realistic to deliver the proposed solution in the timeframe of the acceleration program and budget specified.

Section 2.2 “

Terms and Definitions”, at the beginning of this document defines how individual criteria will be scored and how the final score is computed.

The minimum threshold for each criterion will be **three (3) out of five (5)**, while the overall score threshold will be **fifteen (15) out of twenty (20)**. Proposals that do not meet the minimum thresholds will be excluded from the acceleration programme.

5.4. Ranking

At the end of each the evaluation process all proposals will be ranked in a single list, independent of the challenge that it targets. The criteria for the ranking of the proposals is as follows:

Rule 1: The proposals will be ranked based on their overall score.

Rule 2: In the case that Rule 1 produces proposals with the same ranking position, priority will be given to proposals that have higher cumulative score in criteria: **I, II and II.**

Rule 3: In the case that Rule 2 produces proposals with the same ranking position, priority will be given to proposals that have higher cumulative score in criteria: **I and II.**

Rule 4: In the case that Rule 3 produces proposals with the ranking, , priority will be given to proposals that have higher score in criteria **I.**

Rule 5: In the case that Rule 4 produces proposals with the ranking, priority will be given to proposals that submitted earlier.

5.5. External Remote Evaluation

An external evaluation board with experience in the Resilmesh domain, technologies, and business development will evaluate each proposal, scoring them based on the criteria defined above.

After the individual scoring the Open Call Management Team will consolidate the results of all evaluators and verify if there are significant discrepancies in the

evaluation of individual proposals or consistent deviations between the overall scores of specific evaluators. Significant discrepancy is defined as a difference of more than two points per criteria between evaluators in one proposal.

When such differences are identified the Open Call Management Team will promote one or more rounds of consensus meetings between the evaluators to try to conciliate the scores.

If after the consensus meeting there are still discrepancies the Open Call Management Team can recruit an additional expert to rank the proposal.

When all scores become available the list is ranked according to the criteria defined in the previous section.

5.6. Online Internal Interview

The top-ranked projects of the external remote evaluation will be invited to an online interview, which aims to deeply understand the project concept, team skills and competence, capacity and willingness to exploit the results. The indicative number of proposals to be invited to the online interview is 10.

The interview may take 30 minutes. The evaluation committee might extend the interview duration, if needed. Applicants will make a pitch presentation of the project of up to 10 minutes and answer questions from the panel during the remaining time.

The interviews will be carried out by an internal evaluation committee with three internal evaluation board members examining the criteria defined in the previous section.

If during the interview applicants do not commit to what has been presented in the application form, their applications will be rejected. If after the interview the evaluation panel still has considerations, applicants may be requested to answer additional questions in writing.

After the interviews, evaluators will discuss the evaluated proposal, to generate a common scoring, and rank the proposals as defined in section Ranking on a single list, independent of the challenge that it targets

5.7. Selection

The top-ranking proposal addressing each challenge will be selected for funding. However, if the scores of proposals not selected for funding in a specific challenge, are higher by more than two points than the top ranking proposal in another challenge, the consortium may decide to fund more than one proposal per challenge, instead of funding one proposal per challenge.

5.8. Redress Process

Within three working days of the delivery of a rejection letter considering the proposal as non-eligible or an ESR that ranks the proposal below the selection borderline, the proposer may submit a request for redress if they believe the results of the eligibility checks have not been correctly applied, or if they feel that there has been a shortcoming in the way the proposal has been evaluated that may affect the final decision on whether to enter the acceleration programme or not.

In that case, an internal review committee of the Resilmesh consortium will examine the request for redress. The committee's role is to ensure a coherent interpretation of such requests, and equal treatment of applicants.

Such requests should be:

- Related to the evaluation process or eligibility checks.
- Clearly describe the complaint.
- Received within the time limit (3 working days) from the reception of a rejection letter considering the proposal as non-eligible or the ESR information letter delivered.
- Sent by the SME legal representative that has also submitted the proposal.

The committee will review the request and will recommend an appropriate course of action. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the eventual funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be re-evaluated.

Please note:

- This procedure is concerned only with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process. The committee will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the final decision on funding. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive, and it may be lower than the original score.

Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered by the committee. All requests for redress will be treated in confidence and must be sent to Project Coordinator via the F6S platform.

In case a proposal under the redress procedure is re-evaluated and the new evaluation score is higher, it will be compared with the proposal that has entered the acceleration programme with the lowest ranking. The comparison will use the ranking rules as

expressed in section Ranking. In case the proposal under the redress procedure ranks higher then both proposals will be invited to enter the acceleration phase.

6. Implementation and reporting

This programme includes four key phases: The onboarding phase preparing the start of the of the programme and three sprints: Sprint 1, 2, and 3. Timeline for programme implementation is presented in the table below and detailed in the following sections.

Table 4 Implementation timeline

Implementation												
Activity	2025											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Implementation Sprints	Sprint 1			Sprint 2			Sprint 3					
Submission of Deliverable and Presentation			D1			D2			D3			
Timeframe for Resilmesh Events												
Evaluation period for each sprint												
Submission of payment request				P1			P2			P3		
Payments (Depend on the result of the evaluation)				30%			40%			30%		

In the end of each Sprint, the sub-project coordinator must deliver all relevant deliverables, at least one week in advance, so that the evaluators will have enough time to prepare. During the evaluation, the sub-project members should present their work, answer questions, and demonstrate their experiment.

After each successful evaluation and within **Five working days**, the sub-project coordinator must send the relevant payment request document to the coordinator. Additional conditions and eligibility criteria have already been described in the previous sections.

6.1. Onboarding Phase

After the proposal has been accepted, the beneficiary will start the onboarding process. The goal of this phase is to prepare the work to be performed during the Resilmesh programme. Two processes need to be carried out in parallel: Contract preparation and signature and Refinement of workplan and KPIs

6.1.1. Contract preparation and signature.

After the Open Call evaluation conclusion and projects selection, the Resilmesh coordinator will start the contract preparation process in collaboration with the proposals' coordinator that have been evaluated in the short list. The contract preparation will go through administrative and financial checks (and potentially into technical or ethical/security negotiations) based on the evaluators' comments. On a case-by-case basis, a phone call or teleconference may be needed for clarifications.

The objective of the contract preparation is fulfilling the legal requirements between Resilmesh consortium and every beneficiary of the call. The items covered will be:

- Inclusion of the comments (if any) in the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of the proposals and mapping to the sub-grant agreement (contract).
- To validate the status information of the entities, the following documents will be required:
 - **SMEs declaration (if relevant):** signed and stamped. In the event the applicant declares being non-autonomous, the balance sheet and profit and loss account (with annexes) for the last period for upstream and downstream organisations should also be provided.
 - **Status Information Form.** In case this is not a start-up, it includes the headcount (AWU), balance, profit and loss accounts of the latest closed financial year and the relation, upstream and downstream, of any linked or partner company. In case it is a start-up, a legal document of the official founding date is needed.
 - **Legal existence.** Company Register, Official Gazette or other official document depending on the country are needed to show the name of the organisation, the legal address and registration number, and a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent).
 - In cases where the **number of employees and/or the ownership is not clearly identified:** any other supporting documents which demonstrate headcount and ownership, such as payroll details, annual reports, national regional association records, etc. will be required. In the case of a start-up, a legal document of the official founding date and declaration of ownership is required.
 - **SME Bank account information:** The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated via a form signed by the SME legal representative and the bank representative. The account should be a business bank account of the SME. For information, you can consult an example of the Bank Account Information form to be provided:

It should be emphasized that each **Entity must provide a valid VAT and legal proof of existence, during the contract preparation. Failure to provide the VAT number or equivalent documentation will automatically result in proposal rejection.**

The request by the Resilmesh consortium for the above documentation will be accompanied by a specific deadline. In general, the sub-project negotiation should be concluded within 2 weeks. An additional week may be provided by the Resilmesh coordinator in exceptional but justified cases. In case negotiations have not been concluded within the above period, the proposal will be automatically rejected and the next proposal in the reserve list is invited.

At the end of the negotiation phase, the **sub-grantee funding agreement** will be signed between the Resilmesh Consortium represented by its coordinator and the beneficiary or beneficiaries in case of consortia.

Please note that the sub-grantee funding agreement/contract will cover the complete programme.

6.1.2. Refinement of workplan and KPIs

During the onboarding phase, each onboarded solution will be assigned at least one mentor. The mentor will communicate with the project team on a regular basis to overview the progress and to provide technical or business advice.

The Resilmesh programme suggests the meetings are held every two weeks. Mentors and teams will decide the schedule and agenda for the meetings.

6.2. Sprints

6.2.1. Sprint 1

Starting in January 2025, Sprint 1 has a duration of 3 months. The completion of the onboarding phase is desirable as delays will impact but not prevent the success of the project, and the possibility of releasing funds to the beneficiary in the expected timeframes.

The project must complete the work defined in the work plan provided in the Proposal Supplement, and refined during the onboarding phase for this period.

The goals of Sprint 1 are:

- Complete the technical integration with the Resilmesh release 1.
- In cases where approval from Ethical Committee is required for the completion of the project, submit the research protocol. This may depend on your country-specific laws.

The sprint is finalized by submitting a technical report for evaluation, Deliverable 1 (D1)

6.2.2. Sprint 2

Sprint 2 starts after the completion of Sprint 1 and also has a duration of 3 months. The project must complete the work defined in the work plan provided in the **Technical Proposal** and updated in D1, for this period as well as address comments from the evaluators.

During this sprint, the beneficiaries must:

- Meet with the assigned mentor, with the agreed periodicity;

- May need to attend one physical event within Europe to assess technical progress and/or showcase project results.

The goals of Sprint 2 are:

- Integration with release 2 of Resilmesh platform;
- Validation of data sets used for solutions training;
- Agreement on a IP and licensing model.

The specific goals of Sprint 2 should be defined by the Beneficiary in the implementation section of the proposal and on D1.

The sprint is finalized by submitting a technical report for evaluation, Deliverable 2 (D2)

6.2.3. Sprint 3

Sprint 3 starts after completion of Sprint 2 and also has a duration of 3 months. The project must complete the work defined in the work plan provided in the **Technical Proposal** and any updates included in D2 for this period as well as address comments from the evaluators. , and submit a technical report for evaluation, Deliverable 3 (D3)

During this sub-phase, the applicant must:

- Meet with the assigned mentor, with the agreed periodicity;
- May need to attend one physical event within Europe to assess technical progress and/or showcase project results.

The goals of Sprint 3 are:

- Full validation of the product -- this means that by the end of Sprint 3 the validation of the proposed solution is accomplished and that they journey in the Resilmesh programme is completed.
- Signature of IP documents and licensing models.

The specific goals of Sprint 3 should be defined by the beneficiary in the implementation section of the proposal.

The sprint is finalized by submitting a technical report for evaluation, Deliverable 3 (D3)

6.3. Milestone evaluation

6.3.1. Sprint 1: Evaluation

At the end of month M3, a remote evaluation will take place to evaluate the project progress. One week before the evaluation, the solution leader should submit *the deliverable D1 Presentation and Technical Report* of Sprint 1.

The evaluation will be performed by an Internal evaluation committee via a teleconference platform. The solution leader will make a short presentation of the progress.

After the evaluation, the sub-project coordinator will receive a evaluation report, including comments and potential recommendations. The report will also state if the D1 is accepted or not.

On acceptance of the D1 Deliverable, the sub-project coordinator will be requested to submit a payment request document (template will be provided) requesting the intermediate voucher of 30% of the grant.

On rejection of the D1 Deliverable, or in case of not satisfactory evaluation, the sub-project coordinator will be requested to resubmit the deliverable, payment will not be made until the deliverable is resubmitted and approved.

6.3.2. Sprint 2 Evaluation

At the end of sub-project month M6, a evaluation will take place to evaluate the project progress. The evaluation will be preferably face to face in a venue to be decided. One week before the evaluation, the solution leader should submit the deliverable *D2 Presentation and Technical Report of Sprint 2*.

In the case the evaluation cannot take place in person, it will be performed by an internal evaluation committee via a teleconference platform. The solution leader will make a short presentation of the progress. The solution leader will make a short presentation of the progress.

After the evaluation, the sub-project coordinator will receive a evaluation report, including comments and potential recommendations. The report will also state if the D2 is accepted or not.

On acceptance of the D2 Deliverable, the sub-project coordinator will be requested to submit a payment request document (template will be provided) requesting the intermediate voucher of 40% of the grant.

On rejection of the D2 Deliverable, or in case of not satisfactory evaluation, the sub-project coordinator will be requested to resubmit the deliverable, payment will not be made until the deliverable is resubmitted and approved..

6.3.3. Sprint 3 Evaluation

At the end of sub-project month M9, an evaluation will take place to evaluate the project progress. The evaluation will be preferably face to face in a venue to be announced. One week before the evaluation, the sub-project coordinator should submit the deliverable *D3 Presentation and Technical Report of Sprint 3*.

In the case the evaluation cannot take place in person, it will be performed by an internal evaluation committee via a teleconference platform. The solution leader will make a short presentation of the progress.

After the evaluation, the sub-project coordinator will receive an evaluation report, including comments and potential recommendations. The report will also state if D3 is accepted or not.

On acceptance of the D3 Deliverable, the sub-project coordinator will be requested to submit a payment request document (template to be provided) requesting the intermediate voucher of 30% of the grant.

On rejection of the D3 Deliverable, or in case of a non-satisfactory evaluation, the sub-project coordinator will be requested to resubmit the deliverable, the payment will not be made until the deliverable is resubmitted and approved.

6.4. Resilmesh Events

Resilmesh will organize physical events within Europe for the teams involved. The events will be compulsory to attend in person. At least one representative per team will be required at each event, although it is strongly advised that at least two people attend. All costs associated with attending in these events are responsibility of the funded projects and must be budgeted within the 90K grant.

Failing to attend any of the mandatory events defined at the beginning of each phase by Resilmesh will automatically disqualify the team from Resilmesh programme.

The foreseen events are:

Table 5 List of programme events

EVENT	SCOPE	WHERE	WHEN	DURATION	MANDATORY
Sprint 2 evaluation	Evaluation of Sprint 2	TBD	End of M6	1-2 days	Yes
Sprint 3 evaluation & demo day	Evaluation of Sprint 3 and demo day	TBD	End of M9	1-2 days	Yes

Please note that the locations and dates at the above table are indicative and are subject to change. They may be modified during the execution of the program.

6.5. Internal Communication

The coordinator of the solution should:

- Provide any notice in writing to the Resilmesh project coordinator;
- Immediately notify the Resilmesh coordinator of any changes related to persons or contact details to the. The address list shall be accessible to all concerned.

7. Responsibilities of Beneficiaries

The selected SMEs are indirectly beneficiaries of European Commission funding. As such, they are responsible for the proper use of the funding and for ensuring that the recipients comply with obligations under Horizon Europe specific requirements. The obligations that are applicable to the recipients include the ones presented in the following sections.

7.1. Conflict of Interest

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

They must formally notify the Resilmesh coordinator without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The Resilmesh coordinator may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

If the sub-contract consortium member breaches any of its obligations, the sub-contract may be automatically terminated. Moreover, costs may be rejected.

7.2. Data Protection and Confidentiality

During implementation of the programme activities and for five years after the end of the programme activities, the parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at Sub-grant Agreement signing time ('confidential information').

If a selected applicant requests, the Commission and the Resilmesh consortium may agree to keep such information confidential for an additional period beyond the initial five years. This will be explicitly stated at the Sub-grant Agreement.

If information has been identified as confidential during the Resilmesh programme or only orally, it will be confidential only if this is accepted by the Resilmesh coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of the oral disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed

between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the Agreement.

The selected applicants may disclose confidential information to the Resilmesh consortium and to the selected reviewers, who will be bounded by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

7.3. Promoting the Action and Give Visibility to The EU Funding

The beneficiary must promote the sub-project, the Resilmesh project and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the financial support of the EC. The Resilmesh Communication team will guide and support these communication activities.

Unless the European Commission or the Resilmesh coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

- display the EU emblem;
- display the Resilmesh logo, and
- include the following text:

For communication activities: *“This project has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project Resilmesh (grant agreement No 101119681)”*.

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: *“This [infrastructure] [equipment] [insert type of result] is part of a sub-project that has indirectly received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project Resilmesh (grant agreement No 101119681)”*.

When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Beneficiary is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the Europa web page.

Any publicity made by the beneficiary SME in respect of the project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC or Resilmesh project is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The EC and the Resilmesh consortium shall be authorized to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the beneficiary SME;
- contact address of the beneficiary SME;
- the general purpose of the project;
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the project; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received;
- the geographic location of the activities carried out;
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground;
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to foreground and, if funded within the sub-project, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication;
- the publishable reports submitted to Resilmesh;
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and Resilmesh in the framework of the project.

The beneficiary SME shall ensure that all necessary authorizations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and Resilmesh does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the sub-project coordinator on behalf of any sub-project member, the Resilmesh, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security, academic or commercial interests.

7.4. Financial Audits and Controls

The European Commission (EC) will monitor that Resilmesh beneficiaries and the beneficiary comply with the conditions for financial support to third parties set out in Annex 1 of the Resilmesh grant agreement and may take any action foreseen by the grant agreement in case of non-compliance vis à vis the beneficiary concerned.

Moreover, the EC may at any time during the implementation of the Resilmesh project and up to 5 (five) years after the end of the Resilmesh project, arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The audit procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC. Such audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and

management principles) relating to the proper execution of the grant agreement. They shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

The beneficiary SME shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorized by it, with a view to verifying that the grant agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions and that costs have been charged in compliance with it. This information and data must be precise, complete and effective.

The beneficiary shall keep all sub-project deliverables and the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the sub-project contract for up to five years from the end of the project. These shall be made available to the EC where requested during any audit under the grant agreement.

To carry out these audits, the beneficiary shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the sub-project applicant offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out those audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the project. They shall ensure that the information is readily available on the spot at the moment of the audit and, if so requested, that data be handed over in an appropriate form.

On the basis of the findings made during the financial audit, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorised representative to the beneficiary concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The Commission may decide not to consider observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the beneficiary concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

On the basis of the conclusions of the audit, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

8. Intellectual Property Rights

Third parties' solutions belong to the third parties. Applicants will remain the sole owners of their respective IPRs and retain the IPR for their solutions. The Resilmesh Consortium will not keep an equity stake in any applicant's company or IPR. Licensing model of the foreground, to be agreed by the end of the Second Sprint, will follow the general principle that results free to use for research purposes but must be paid for commercial use.

Each evaluator will sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) before receiving access to the proposal database to protect the applicants' intellectual property. However, Resilmesh and the European Commission may ask participants who have received funding to present their work as part of public relations and networking events to showcase the Resilmesh project's benefits.

8.1. Access Rights for Resilmesh

Open Call Resilmesh recognizes the importance of fostering innovation while respecting the rights of creators and collaborators. As part of our commitment to transparency and fairness, this section outlines the access rights granted to Beneficiaries of the Resilmesh Open Call.

Definition of access rights

Access rights refer to the permissions granted to applicants to utilise certain resources, facilities, or data provided by Resilmesh Consortium for the purpose of their project submission and after award collaboration.

Scope of access rights

Applicants selected to participate in the Resilmesh Open Call will be granted access rights to specific resources and facilities necessary for the development and demonstration of their proposed project. This may include access to software tools, hardware devices, datasets, APIs, and other relevant assets provided by Resilmesh team.

Duration of access rights

The duration of access rights will be determined based on the timeline of the Open Call and the needs of the selected projects. Access rights will typically be granted for the duration of the project development phase and any subsequent evaluation or demonstration periods.

Limitations and restrictions

While applicants will be granted access rights to certain resources, they are expected to use them solely for the purposes outlined in their project proposal. Any unauthorized

use or dissemination of these resources will result in the termination of access rights and may lead to disqualification from the Resilmesh Open Call.

Intellectual Property Rights

Applicants retain ownership of any intellectual property created during the project development phase, subject to the terms outlined in section 9 Intellectual Property Rights of the Open Call guidelines. However, Resilmesh reserves the right to utilize project outcomes for internal evaluation, research, and promotional purposes, with appropriate attribution to the creators.

Confidentiality and non-disclosure

Applicants are required to uphold strict confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations regarding any proprietary information or trade secrets accessed during the Open Call. This includes maintaining the confidentiality of any data or algorithms provided by Resilmesh and refraining from disclosing such information to third parties without prior written consent.

Compliance and accountability

By accepting access rights to Resilmesh resources, applicants agree to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies governing the use of such resources. Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in the revocation of access rights and other disciplinary actions as deemed appropriate by Resilmesh.

Termination of access rights

Resilmesh reserves the right to terminate access rights at any time and for any reason, including but not limited to violations of the terms and conditions outlined in the Open Call guidelines or failure to meet project milestones.

Appeals process

In the event of a dispute or disagreement regarding access rights, applicants may request a review of the decision by submitting a formal appeal to Resilmesh Coordinator. The appeals process will be conducted in accordance with established procedures and will aim to reach a fair and equitable resolution.

By delineating clear guidelines for access rights, the Resilmesh Consortium aims to facilitate a collaborative and productive environment for participants in the Open Call, while safeguarding the interests of all parties involved.

8.2. Data ownership

The type of data available for the Resilmesh Open Call projects is manifold, representing the contextual diversity of innovative environments which mirrors the complex reality of the cybersecurity domain. The type of data selected applicants may

use could be open or closed data, with either open or restricted access. Resilmesh deals with several data policies and preferences on treating data in their framework.

The selected applicants will be responsible for understanding the conditions of data in each case, as well as associated licences and costs. Selected applicants will also be responsible for implementing data processing solutions compliant with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

9. Contacts

The Resilmesh consortium will provide information to the applicants only via the F6S blog, so that all information (questions and answers), will be visible to all participants.

- More info at: <https://resilmesh.eu/>
- Apply via: <https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-1>
- F6S support team: support@f6s.com
- Online Q&A: <https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-1/discuss>
- To contact the Resilmesh consortium: resilmesh@f6s.com.