



Resilmesh Open Call #1: Results and Insights from a Targeted Innovation Round

The Resilmesh project is building Europe's next-generation cyber-defence framework — a modular, scalable Security Orchestration & Analytics Platform Architecture (SOAPA) designed to safeguard critical infrastructure across IT and OT environments. A key pillar of this effort is Resilmesh's cascade funding programme, which invites high-potential third parties to contribute new functionalities, validate technologies in real-world environments, and strengthen the platform's long-term sustainability.

In 2024, the project launched its first open call to bring external innovation into the Resilmesh ecosystem. Open Call #1 (OC1) was conceived not as a broad call for participation, but as a focused test of both technical and operational readiness. It served as a practical demonstration of the project's Objective O6 — 'Evaluate & Transfer' — by putting into motion a fully fledged scouting, selection, and onboarding process for complementary cybersecurity innovations.

The call opened on August 7 and closed on October 16, 2024, with a clear timeline and a single guiding philosophy: quality over volume. The Resilmesh team defined four strategic challenges based on real integration gaps identified during the internal architecture design phase. Applicants could submit only one proposal, aligned to one of the following areas: extension to new domains and systems, novel analytic algorithms and architectures, stream processing of security events, and security operations.

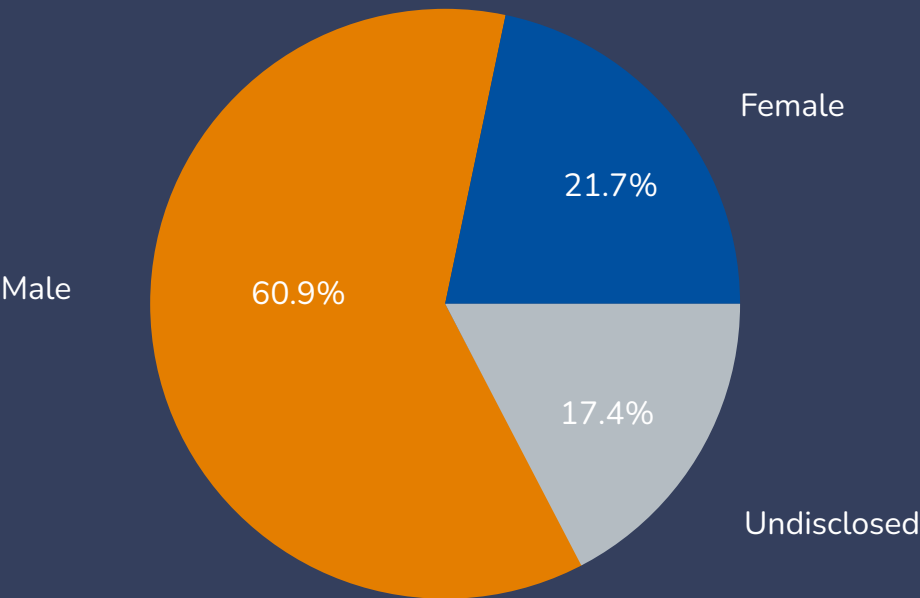
Over the course of the call, 23 eligible proposals were received from 15 different countries. The geographic spread of applications — including submissions from Spain, Italy, Greece, Lithuania, France, Germany, Cyprus, Croatia, Portugal, Finland, and beyond — confirmed the success of the consortium's dissemination and outreach efforts.

Applications by Country:

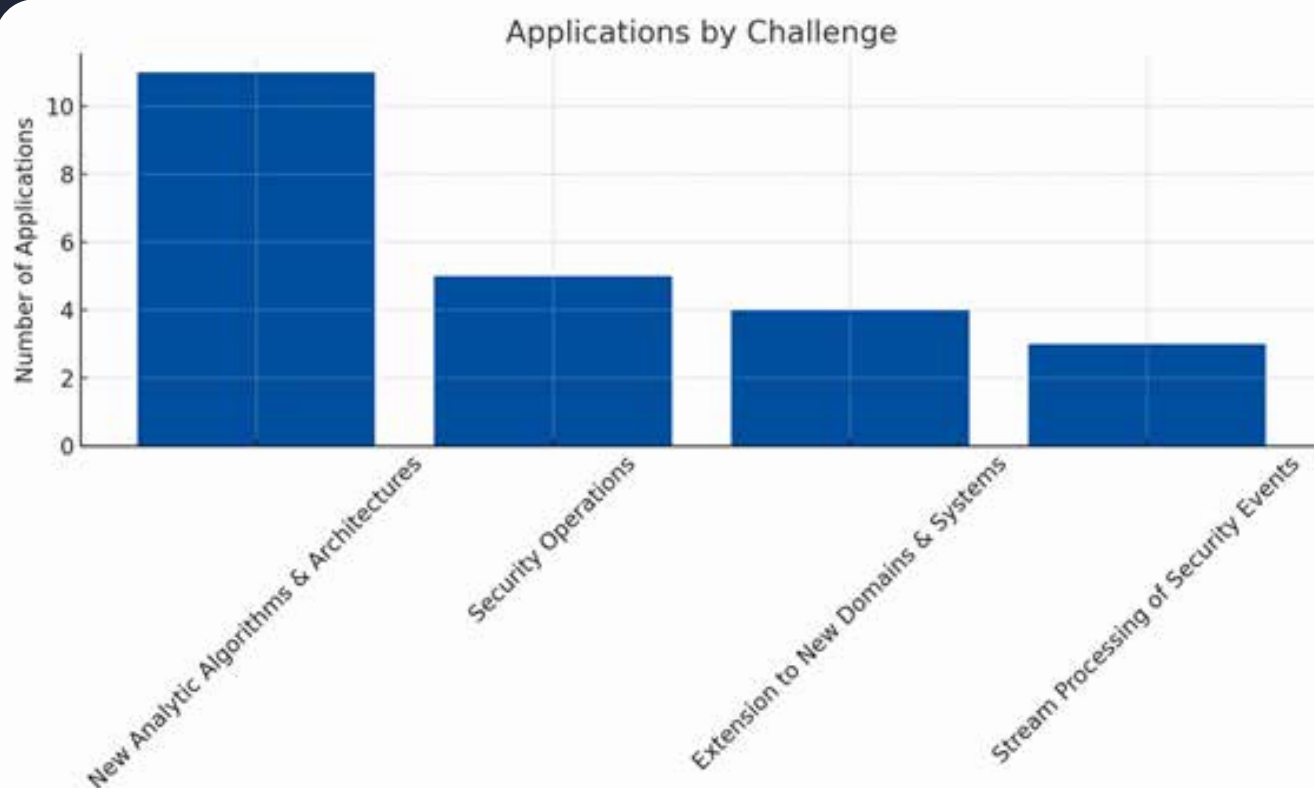


Applicants ranged from newly founded startups to more established SMEs, with over 70% of organisations founded after 2020. Gender representation, while optional to report, was also encouraging, around 26% identified as female — a figure above the typical average for deep-tech programmes, but one which still points to room for improvement.

Lead Contact Gender Distribution



Applications by Challenge:



In terms of challenge focus, the field reflected pressing industry needs. Nearly half of the applications (11 out of 23) targeted advanced analytics and AI/ML architectures, followed by security operations (5), system extension (4), and stream processing (3). This distribution aligned well with Resilmesh's own priority areas and provided a balanced foundation for selection.

The evaluation process itself was conducted with rigour and transparency. All proposals underwent an initial eligibility screening, followed by independent scoring from two external evaluators using a structured rubric. Proposals were assessed on four equally weighted criteria — alignment and excellence, impact, concept and technology, and implementation — with scoring on a scale from 0 to 5. Following consensus meetings to reconcile score differences, the top-ranked seven applicants were invited to participate in live pitch interviews. These sessions enabled evaluators to probe team capacity, technical feasibility, and fit with Resilmesh's licensing and integration roadmap. The interviews proved especially valuable for borderline cases, offering deeper insights into execution plans and technical assumptions.

Ultimately, four sub-projects were selected for funding. Each awarded team receives €90,000 in lump-sum financing, delivered in three milestone-based sprints over a nine-month implementation period. In parallel, the Resilmesh consortium has provided dedicated technical mentorship to ensure alignment with the main platform development, facilitate integration, and support deliverable preparation.

By early 2025, all selected teams had successfully completed their onboarding and submitted the first set of technical deliverables. Each project tackles a key capability area for Resilmesh: from enhancing resilience in photovoltaic energy systems and securing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, to designing software actuators for SCADA-managed smart buildings and developing cloud-native event dashboards powered by AI-driven insights.

While Open Call #1 kept its focus narrow, the impact was substantial. It validated the platform's ability to identify, onboard and support external innovation; it brought new technical building blocks into the Resilmesh stack; and it widened the community of innovators contributing to the project's success. The lessons learned during OC1 — from outreach strategy to technical integration and sprint coordination — now serve as the foundation for Open Call #2, which will aim to reach a broader set of stakeholders and explore different application areas.

As Resilmesh moves forward, the project remains committed to building a secure, scalable and open cyber-defence architecture for Europe — and to doing so in collaboration with a growing community of expert innovators. Stay tuned for Open Call #2!

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