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**Disclaimer**

# 1 What is Resilmesh?

ResilMesh endeavors to develop a cutting-edge security orchestration and analytics toolset grounded in cyber situational awareness (CSA). This initiative aims to equip organizations with the capabilities needed for real-time defense of essential business functions in an era marked by dispersed, heterogeneous cyber systems.

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) digital identity infrastructure (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 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 introduce the platform to the end-users and to iron out any teething problems and the second will 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 second open call is 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.

# 2 What does the Resilmesh – Open Call 2 offer?

The *Open Call* is the competitive process by which eligible applicants apply to have access to the Resilmesh programme.

Applications to the Open Call will be accepted from 03/09/2025 until 05/11/2025. After the selection is completed, selected applicants will be invited to sign the sub-grant agreement and enter the Resilmesh Programme.

The Resilmesh Programme is organised in 3 stages of 3 months. Sprint 1 from 02/01/2026 to 31/03/2026, Sprint 2 from 01/04/2026 to 30/06/2026, Sprint 3 from 01/07/2026 to 30/09/2026.

During these phases, beneficiaries will have the support of a mentor to support and monitor project progress and facilitate communication with technical partners

The programme will select 5 applications, each addressing one of the challenges/topics defined in section 3.2 providing a maximum contribution of 72.000€, to be paid in form of lump sums at the end of each stage (25% + 45% + 30%).

**Relevant links and contacts**

- Project website: - www.resilmesh.eu/open-call-2/
- Open call application form: https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-2/apply
- Online Q&A: https://www.f6s.com/resilmesh-open-call-2/discuss
- Contact us: resilmesh@f6s.com
- F6S platform support team (For issues with the submission, resubmission, access to the platform, etc.): support@f6s.com

# 3 Who can apply and how?

## 3.1 Types of applicants

Eligible applicants for the Resilmesh - Open Call 2 are:

- Legal entities or consortium of legal entities, which can be either mid-caps, SMEs or research organisations (RTOs or academia), End-users/Technology Adopters/ Developers/ Integrators.
- In the case of consortium 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.
- *Relevant notes*:
    - *Please consult the EU SME Definition for details on what constitutes an SME.*
    - *A signed version of the Declaration of Honour and the SME Declaration will be requested during the contract preparation phase.*

### 3.1.1 Eligible countries

Eligible countries that may receive funding through this Open Call are legal entities from:

- European Union Member States, with a valid VAT and PIC number.
- Horizon Europe associated countries (those that have signed an agreement with the EU as identified in the HE Programme Guide) according to the updated list published by the European Commission.
- As Resilmesh was funded before 01/01/2024 **UK entities are not eligible for funding.**

The Resilmesh - Open Call 2 follows the rules applied by the EC for the R&D Programme Horizon Europe, at the time of Resilmesh funding, in terms of geographical coverage, eligibility, and exclusions, which take precedence.

### 3.1.2 Multiple submissions

The Resilmesh - Open Call 2 will accept a **maximum of 1 (one) application** per applicant.

In case an applicant submits more than **1 (one)** applications, only the application submitted first will be considered.

## 3.2 Types of projects

*Table 1: Resilmesh Open Call challenges*

| Code | Title | Number to be selected |
|---|---|---|
| C1 | Extension to new domains and systems | 2 |
| C2 | New Analytic Algorithms and Architectures | 3 |

### C1- Extension to new domains and systems

This challenge will address extensions to Resilmesh via the **collaboration mesh IRP's**. The collaboration mesh consists of two sub-parts:

1. A **connectivity mesh** to describe the *interconnection* of the systems' components. This term includes not only the actual network connectivity but also the end-to-end aggregation data processing pipeline. This applies primarily to the two layers shown in the Architecture diagram earlier i.e. the Collaboration Mesh and the Aggregation Plane. For this subject area we are interested in proposals:

- that demonstrate how the connectivity mesh capability can provide secure adaptivity to improve the resilience of the Resilmesh platform by improve resilience engineering techniques such as redundancy and dynamic positioning as described in the NIST cyber resilience engineering guidelines – see Table 2 below – to provide a form of Moving Target Defence.
- We expect a Kubernetes-based service mesh implementation. The task shall also indicate and demonstrate how their implementation will address known security issues that could arise in the use of Kubernetes service mesh such as mTLS configuration issues, sidecar injection vulnerabilities, lack of ingress/egress controls, certificate and key management risks etc.
- The proposal should be grounded in a specific IT or OT application scenario.

*Table 2: NIST cyber resilience engineering guidelines*

| Technique | Description |
|---|---|
| Redundancy | Provide multiple protected instances of critical resources |
| Dynamic Positioning | Flexible function component allocation and composition |

2. An **interworking mesh** based on the use of open protocols, standards and best practices to enable ease of *integration* and *cooperation* between security applications/controls including third party tools. In this task we are looking for proposals that will extend the interoperability in the security application layers i.e. Threat Awareness, Situation Assessment and Security Operations- between Resilmesh components and other tools along the lines of the Open XDR Architecture (OXA) principles including the use of 'Meshroom' tool.

**Proposals should address <u>one</u> of connectivity *mesh* or *interworking mesh***

## C2 - New Analytic Algorithms and Architectures

**Zone based Anomaly detection architectures:** This area is concerned with exploring the use of novel approaches to edge anomaly detection as well as alerts aggregated by zone. A security zone is a logical grouping of physical, data, and application assets sharing common security requirements. Zones have long been a central feature of Industrial Control System (IDS) networks (https://bit.ly/3yL1g0y) . They are now also becoming mainstream in IT security solutions as a part of the Zero Trust approach i.e. secure device enclaves such as the Google Cloud Platform 'service perimeter' or network segment etc.

This task will therefore explore, for a particular use-case or scenario, how zone based anomaly detection may be implemented in Resilmesh. This relies on the capability to associate a number of assets as a single unit for analysis purposes and may involve extension of the ISIM asset management tool or the NSE network risk management tool as well as possible extension to Wazuh dashboards.

**Novel edge AI AD architectures and algorithms:** 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

- Use Ensemble methods
- Distributed deep learning
- Incremental learning
- Edge Agent/ic architectures
- Edge-to-Edge Collaborative Anomaly Detection
- Multi-modal and multi-rate data sources fusion

**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.

## 3.3 Funding conditions

Any entity, applying individually or as part of a consortium, will only be considered for funding once.

Each application may receive a maximum of up to €72.000. The total amount requested must represent 100% of the project costs. All applications will be required to provide a justification of the planned costs and resources of the project.

Funding is foreseen to support the following categories of costs:

- Project management;
- Research and technical development;
- Testing and piloting;
- Communication, promotion, and exploitation;
- Travel (as required).

Funds will be disbursed in lump sums at the end of each stage and pending the achievement of agreed milestones and deliverables.

## 3.4 Application process

The F6S platform will be the single-entry point for all applications to the Resilmesh - Open Call 2. Interested applicants should register at the Resilmesh F6S page (www. resilmesh.eu/open-call-2/ ). The relevant links and timings for the application process are provided in "Table 3 Application Process and Timeline" but are subject to change.

*Table 3: Application Process and Timeline*

| Phase | Description | Timeline |
|---|---|---|
| **Application** | Fill in and submit application including:<br>● Application form on F6S.<br>● Proposal Supplement | Launch date: 03/09/2025<br>Submission deadline:<br>05/11/2025<br>(17h00 CET) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Application evaluation** | An evaluation board reviews the received applications, scoring them based on the evaluation criteria. The evaluators rank the applications and select the top-ranked projects in online interviews. | 06/11/2025 to 28/11/2025 |
| **Online interviews** | Applicants pitch the project to the evaluators, and the evaluators ask questions about elements they want to clarify regarding the application. | 08/12/2025 to 12/12/2025 |
| **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 Programme. | 16/12/2025 |

The submission date for applications is final. All other dates, including those of the programme, may be subject to change.

## 3.5 Other application requirements and considerations

- **Submission**: Applications must be submitted via F6S platform. Any other submission method will not be accepted.
- **Complete application:** All mandatory questions must be answered, and all requested documents must be uploaded. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.
- **Accept terms:** Applicants must agree to the application's terms and conditions.
- **English language:** All applications and programme communication must be in English.
- **Document format**: Unless otherwise agreed, all documents in all phases must be submitted electronically in PDF format without printing restrictions.
- **Deadline:**
    - Failure to submit the application by the submission deadline, regardless of cause (e.g., network issues, multiple browsers or windows), is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. It is recommended to apply well before the deadline.
    - Resubmissions are possible provided the call deadline has not passed but are only guaranteed if requested at least 2 business days before the deadline via support@f6s.com.
    - The deadline may be extended only in case of unforeseen F6S platform technical issues. All applicants will be notified of the new deadline.

- **Review future documents:** Applicants are encouraged to get familiar with the documents that will be required in the contracting phase (see Section - Contracting Phase)
- **Notifications:** Applicants are encouraged to enable F6S notifications for the programme in their profile settings to ensure communications regarding their application are received.
- **Applicants list:** A full list of applicants containing their basic information will be created for statistical and transparency purposes and shared with the European Commission.

# 4 How will applications be evaluated and selected?

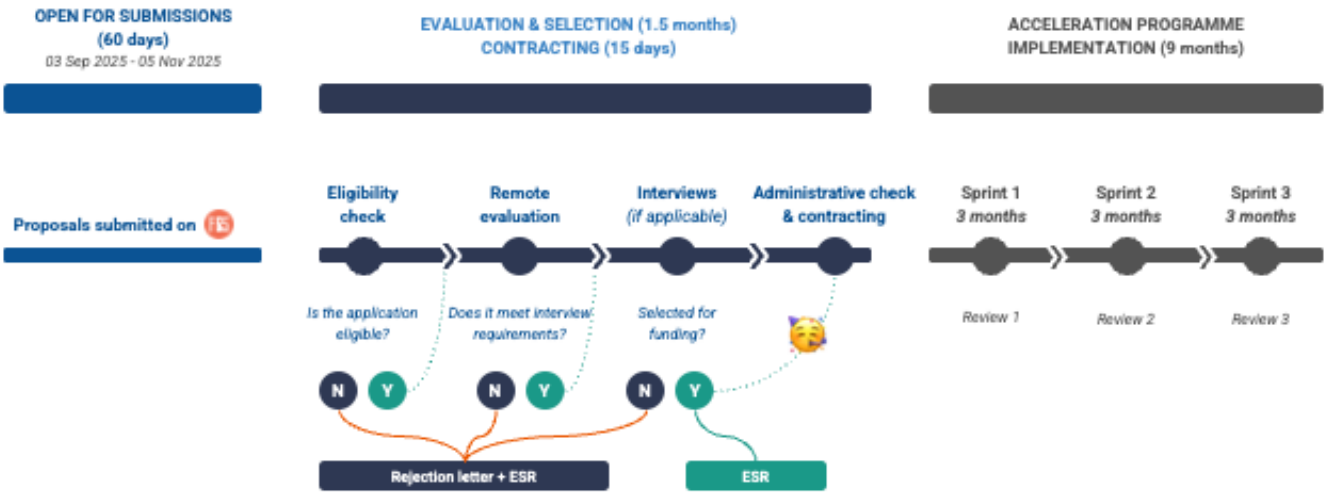


*Figure 1: Application and Evaluation process*

Figure 1 summarises the evaluation and selection process.

Resilmesh reserves the right to request at any moment of the process additional information and/or documentation to clarify any doubts regarding the eligibility of the applicant(s) and/or the application.

## 4.1 Eligibility check

An initial eligibility verification will be done to filter out and discard non-eligible applications. An application is only considered eligible if it meets **all the eligibility criteria and requirements** listed in Section 3, including: type of applicant(s), consortium, countries, funding, language, documentation.

The eligibility check enables the establishment of a shortlist of applications to be evaluated in the next step of the evaluation process. Applications marked as non-eligible (for not meeting one or more of the eligibility criteria) will receive a rejection letter with a justification.

## 4.2 Expert evaluation

The expert evaluation board is a collective body composed of individual members with relevant experience in the Resilmesh domains, having signed and duly agreed in advance a written commitment of confidentiality and absence of any conflicts of interest that might influence the impartial and objective analysis and evaluation of all submitted proposals.

### 4.2.1 Evaluation criteria & scoring

Each application will be reviewed by a minimum of two experts from the expert evaluation board. Applications will be scored against the following criteria:

*Table 4: Evaluation criteria*

| Criteria | Description |
|---|---|
| **Alignment and Excellence** | Projects must demonstrate a clear set of objectives aligned with the definition of the Resilmesh Open call, and with the general objectives of the project, and contribution to Resilmesh training datasets. |
| **Concept & Technology** | Novelty and feasibility of the product or service concept proposed. Technology fit to Resilmesh scope, technical capacity to achieve TRL 7-8. |
| **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 in the timeframe of the acceleration program and budget specified |

Table 8 Glossary (*item 'Score, Expert'*) defines how individual criteria will be scored. The minimum threshold for each criterion will be 3 ***(three) out of 5 (five)***, while the overall score threshold will be ***10 (ten) out of 15 (fifteen).*** Applications that do not meet the minimum thresholds (per criteria or overall score) will be excluded from the programme.

After the individual scoring by the expert evaluation, the Open Call Management Team will:

- Check for large differences (over 2 points per criterion) between evaluators.
- If differences exist, evaluators meet to discuss and agree on scores.
- If an agreement isn't reached, another expert may be invited to provide a third assessment.

### 4.2.2 Ranking & selection

All applications will be ranked in a single list based on their overall score, which is calculated from the average scores given by the evaluators. If multiple applications have the same overall score, the following tie-breaking criteria will be applied in this order:

1. Proposals that have higher cumulative score in criteria **Alignment and Excellence** and **Concept & Technology** .
2. Proposals that have higher score in criteria **Alignment and Excellence**
3. Proposals that submitted earlier

## 4.3 Interview

The top-ranked applications of the external remote evaluation phase will be invited to an online interview. The interviews aim to understand the project concept, team skills and competence, capacity and willingness to exploit the results. The interview format, evaluation and scoring, and final ranking process is as follows:

**Interview selection & format:**

- The top 15 (fifteen) applications from the remote evaluation are invited to a 30-minute online interview, depending on the quality of the proposals the project may decide to invite a different number of teams.
- Applicants present their project (10 (ten) minutes) and answer questions from an interview committee composed by members of the consortium.

**Evaluation & scoring:**

- The internal committee evaluates the application and information conveyed in the interview based on the criteria defined in Table 2 Evaluation criteria.
- Interview scores replace the previous external expert scores.
- Failure to meet these or uphold the original application contents leads to the rejection of the application.
- Additional written questions may be requested.

**Final ranking of applications:**

- Evaluators discuss and agree on the scores.
- Projects are ranked by their overall score.
- Ties are broken as defined in section 4.2.2.

All applicants at all stages of the evaluation will be informed about the result of their evaluation along with an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR).

## 4.4 Appeals

Within three (3) working days of receiving (1) a rejection letter informing the application as non-eligible or (2) an ESR of non-acceptance, an applicant may submit a request for an appeal 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 their application has been evaluated.

All requests for appeal must be sent to resilmesh@f6s.com and must:

- Focus on aspects concerning the evaluation of the application (e.g. admissibility or eligibility checks, evaluation procedure, etc), not their merits.
- Clearly describe the complaint.
- Be received within the time limit (3 working days) from the reception of a rejection letter considering the application as non-eligible or the ESR information letter delivered.
- Sent by the entities' legal representative that has also submitted the application.

Note that the evaluation is carried out by highly qualified experts. Resilmesh will neither question nor interfere with their original evaluation. Mere repetitions of the content of the application or disagreements with the result or reasoning of the technical evaluation will not be considered.

# 5 What happens after selection?

Selected applicants will be invited to the contracting phase, where administrative and financial details and documents are verified and validated.

Furthermore, to carry out mandatory Know Your Customer (KYC) checks, proof of residency and proof of ID from one or more members of the organisation(s) is required.

The steps of this phase are:

1. Inclusion of comments (if any) provided in the Evaluation Summary Report as part of the sub-grant agreement (contract).
2. Validation of the entities based on the provision of the following documentation:
    - Formal proof of the entity's legal existence and tax activity.
    - Proof of the SME status, including the SME Declaration Form (Annex 5).
    - Declaration of Honour, for all participating entities, signed by the legal representative of the entity.
    - Consortium Declaration of Honour, signed by the legal representative of each consortium partner.
    - Bank Account Information (Annex 6).
3. Signing of the sub-grant agreement (Annex 3) between Resilmesh Consortium represented by its Coordinator, Technological University of the Shannon, and the Lead Beneficiary.

Additional considerations:

- A valid VAT is mandatory.
- The sub-grant agreement (contract) is final and cannot be altered.
- Electronic digital signatures are required for signed documents (unless otherwise agreed).
- Deadlines for document submission will be provided, and will normally be concluded within two weeks.
- Failure to complete the negotiation in time will result in rejection.

# 6 What is the Resilmesh - Programme and its requirements?

## 6.1 Programme Stages

The Resilmesh Programme includes 3 (three) stages:

1. Design
2. Deployment
3. Evaluation

### 6.1.1 Design Stage

The design stage has a duration of 3 months, starting in January 2026. The completion of the onboarding 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.

During this the project team needs to:

- Schedule meetings with mentor and attend the meetings
- Regularly update the mentor on the progress
- Submit the report R1

The generic goals of Design Stage are:

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

### 6.1.2 Deployment Stage

Deployment Stage starts after completion of Design Stage and has a duration of 3 months. The project must complete the work defined in the work plan provided in the Proposal Supplement and updated in R1, for this period as well as address comments from the reviewers.

During this sprint, the Beneficiaries must:

- Meet with mentor with the periodicity agreed
- May need to attend one physical event in Europe to assess technical progress and/or showcase project results.
- Submit report R2

The generic goals of Deployment Stage are:

- Complete the Integration with Resilmesh platform
- Validation data sets used for solutions training.
- Agreement on 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 R1.

### 6.1.3 Evaluation Stage

Evaluation Stage starts after completion of Deployment Stage and has the duration of 3 months. The project must complete the work defined in the work plan provided in the Proposal Supplement and any updates included in R2 for this period as well as address comments from the reviewers.

During this sub-phase, the Applicant must:

- Meet with mentor with the periodicity agreed
- May need to attend one physical event in Europe to assess technical progress and/or showcase project results.
- Submit report R3

The generic goals of Evaluation Stage are:

- Full validation of the product -- this means that by the end of the stage the validation of your solution is accomplished and that you have completed the journey in the Resilmesh programme.
- Signature of IP documents and licensing models

The specific goals of the Evaluation Stage should be defined by the Beneficiary in the implementation section of the proposal and updated in R2.

### 6.1.4 Resilmesh events

Resilmesh will organize physical events in 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.

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

The foreseen events are:

*Table 5: Resilmesh events*

| Event | Description | When & Where |
|---|---|---|
| Deployment Phase assessment | Mandatory event to assess Deployment Phase completion | End of M6, 2 days, Virtual or Physical in Europe |
| Evaluation Phase assessment | Mandatory event to assess Evaluation Phase completion, and project Demo Day | End of M9, 3 days, virtual or physical eventually collocated with a bigger event. |

## 6.2 Programme review

### 6.2.1 Review summary

Each project will go through 3 (three) reviews, each one highlighting the end of a stage.

*Table 6: Resilmesh review stages*

| Stage | Item | Descripion |
|---|---|---|
| **Design** | **Requirement** | Submission of Report R1. |
| | **Result** | Payment of 25% of the grant. |
| | **Timeline** | End of month 3 (three). |
| **Deployment** | **Requirement** | Submission of Report R2. |
| | **Result** | Payment of 45% of the grant. |
| | **Timeline** | End of month 6 (six). |
| **Evaluation** | **Requirement** | Submission of Report R3. |
| | **Result** | Payment of 30% of the grant. |
| | **Timeline** | End of month 9 (nine). |

Reports must be submitted at least one week in advance, so that the reviewers will have enough time to prepare. During the review, representatives of the beneficiary should present their work and answer questions.

After each successful review and within **10 (ten) working days**, the beneficiary should send the relevant payment request document.

# 7 What else is important to know?

## 7.1 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Solutions developed and results achieved by the third parties belong to the third parties. Applicants will remain the sole owners of their respective IPRs and retain the IPR for their solutions.

Regarding the evaluation and the review, each evaluator will sign an Agreement including confidentiality clauses before receiving access to the applications database to protect the applicants' intellectual property and sensitive non-disclosed information.

## 7.2 On conflicts of interest

Applicants must not have any actual and/or 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.

### 1.1. 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 Proposal Template.
- If the applicant confirms the existence of potential ethical issues, they must contact the Resilmesh Helpdesk for guidance, as required.
- The Resilmesh will verify the declaration's consistency with the application contents and may contact applicants to resolve any ethical issues.
- Applications that fail to properly address ethical issues or inadequately deal with privacy aspects will be rejected.

## 7.3 Data protection

In order to process and evaluate applications, and manage project implementation, the Resilmesh consortium will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data.

- F6S Network Ireland Limited, 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 TUS Google Drive managed by the project coordinator Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest.
- 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 their conclusion.

## 7.4 Confidentiality

Confidentiality obligations:

Selected applicants are required to maintain confidential any project data, documents, invoices and other materials (in any form) during the implementation of the activities and for 5 years after project completion.

- This confidentiality period can be extended by agreement with the EC and the Resilmesh consortium.
- Information shared during the project, whether written or spoken, is only considered confidential if the Resilmesh agrees and confirms it in writing within 15 days.
- Confidential information must only be used for project implementation, unless otherwise agreed upon.
- Any information shared during the application stage will be treated as confidential.

## 7.5 Promotion of the action and ensuring visibility of the EU funding

The beneficiary must promote the 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, including on the official third party website. The Resilmesh Communication team will guide and support these communication activities to selected beneficiaries.

## 7.6 Checks and reviews

The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the sub-project and up to five years after the end of the sub-project, arrange for a check and review activity to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves, including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC.

There will be no financial checks, reviews, or audits to check costs, since beneficiaries have no obligation to document the costs incurred for the action. Checks, reviews, and audits will focus on the technical implementation of the action.

# 8 Relevant Open Call definitions

*Table 7: Abbreviations and Acronyms*

| Acronym | Explanation/ Definition |
|---|---|
| AWU | Annual Work Unit |
| EC | European Commission |
| SME | Small and Medium Sized Enterprise |
| ESR | Evaluation Summary Report |
| KYC | Know Your Customer |

*Table 8: Glossary*

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| Applicant(s) | The legal entity or group of legal entities that intend(s) to submit or that submitted an application 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. |
| Bank Account Information | Form where the beneficiary provides information of the bank account to which payments will be made during the project implementation. |
| Beneficiary or 3rd Party | An entity or a consortium that submitted an application to the open call that was accepted to be funded, and have signed, or are in the process of signing, a sub-grant agreement. |
| Consortium | Set of legal entities that are cumulatively responsible to implement the project as defined in the Grant Agreement signed with the European Commission. |
| Consortium Declaration of Honour | Declaration where the applicants/ beneficiaries, participating as a consortium, declare they accept all conditions of the open call, acceleration process & programme; and agree - if |

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| | applicable - on budget share. One CDoH is required for each sub-granted project. |
| Contract Deadline | Date and time until when the selected entities need to provide contractual information. |
| Declaration of Honour (DoH) | Declaration where the applicant/ beneficiary declares they accept all conditions of the open call, acceleration process & programme. One DoH is required for each applicant/ beneficiary. |
| External Evaluator | Expert hired by the consortium to assist in the evaluation of the Open Call. External evaluators cannot have conflicts of interest and are bound 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 | Group of appropriately qualified persons of the consortium partners that are assigned the responsibility of performing evaluations or reviews at any stage of the open call implementation or programme. |
| 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 a Programme. |
| Open Call and Programme deadlines | The project has planned the programme carefully, but unexpected things can happen. The application deadline is fixed, and will only change if something unforeseen occurs. Other dates, including of the programme, are flexible and may be adjusted as needed, and communicated to all applicants. |
| Open Call close date | Date and time when applications close. |
| Open Call selection prioritisation | Rules used to order applications. |

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| Proof of Bank Account Information | The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated via a specific form signed by the entity, individuals, and the bank owners. The holder of the account will be the entity/ individual. Provided using Annex 6. |
| Proof of Legal Existence | Company/ organisation register, official journal or other official document per country showing 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). |
| Proof of SME Status | Proof of the SME condition is required:<br>• If the applicant has been fully validated as an SME on the Beneficiary Register of the EC Participant Portal, the PIC number must be provided.<br>• Provision of the signed (with a valid e-signature) **SME Declaration** (Annex 5): in the event the beneficiary declares being non-autonomous, the balance sheet and profit and loss account (with annexes) for the last period for upstream and downstream organisations is required. A Status Information Form may be requested, which includes the headcount (AWU), balance, profit & loss accounts of the latest closed financial year and the relation, upstream and downstream, of any linked or partner company.<br>Supporting documents: In cases where either the number of employees 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. |
| Reserve List | Eligible applications that were not selected for funding which can be invited in case selected applications do not provide contractual data. |
| Schedule for payments to Beneficiaries | All payments to beneficiaries are dependent on the successful review of deliverables/ reports at the end of each sprint/ stage/ phase, and reception by the consortium of the corresponding payment request.<br>All payments will be made with undue delay preferably no later than 30 calendar days after the reception of the financial statement. |

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| Score, Expert | Unless otherwise stated, experts will rank each criterion with marks between 0 and 5. Half point scores are not given. Score values will indicate the following assessments:<br>• 0: Fail. The application fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.<br>• 1: Very poor. The criterion is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner.<br>• 2: Poor. There are serious inherent weaknesses.<br>• 3: Good. While the application broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting.<br>• 4: Very Good. The application addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible.<br>5: Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor. |
| Score, Per Committee | 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.<br>Overall score is the sum of the scores of each criterion multiplied by the respective weight, rounded to the nearest integer value. |
| Selected application | Application that was selected to participate in the Open Call Implementation. |
| 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 |

[1] https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-fundamentals/sme-definition_en

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| | 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. |
| SME Declaration Form | Declaration where the SME status is assessed. |
| Sub-grant Agreement | Signed between the Project Consortium, represented by its Coordinator and the beneficiary. The sub-grant agreement will also include the comments (if any) of the application's ESR to the work plan. |