

## Guide for Applicants

# **Call for Local Organisers**

## EUDIS Hackathon and Mentoring Programme 2024

European Defence Fund | Programme of the European Union - EUDIS (EU Defence and Innovation Scheme)

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## Glossary

EU: European Union
EC: European Commission
DEFIS: Directorate General for Defence Industry and Space
EUDIS: European Union Defence Innovation Scheme
MS: EU Member States
NO: Norway
EDA: European Defence Agency

MoD: Ministry of Defence

**EUDIS Hackathons implementation team:** it is a consortium of entities responsible to carry out the EUDIS Hackathon and mentoring programme 2024 on behalf of DEFIS. Led by CIVITTA, its partners are also ULTRAHACK, TECHNOPOL, CECOFORMA and CARSA. More information is to be found in the website https://eudis-hackathon.eu/

**Local organizer:** Local Hackathon Organizers are dedicated facilitators and coordinators of the EUDIS Hackathon on a regional level. Selected through an open call process, these entities play a pivotal role in orchestrating the success of the hackathon within their respective localities

Local organizer selection board: A group of Hackathon/Innovation experts responsible for evaluating and choosing the 6 local organizers for the EUDIS Hackathon

**Central Hub:** The main coordination hub for the EUDIS Hackathon and local events. It employs twoway streaming to connect locations - facilitating interactive sessions between the Central Hub and local hackathons. Managed by Tehnopol, it hosts and streams shared hackathon sessions like keynotes and awards. The Hub ensures smooth communication, equipped with quality tech and staff to manage streaming and inquiries.

**Participant:** Enthusiastic individuals who actively engage in the EUDIS Hackathon, bringing their diverse skills, creativity, and problem-solving capabilities to the event. These include students, young professionals, military academies alumni, young military personnel, startups and entrepreneurs, mid-cap company leaders, and innovators within large enterprises.

**EMS Platform:** CARSA's platform – Evaluation Management System (EMS). It will be used to organise and manage in an efficient and dependable fashion the open call for expression of interest for selecting the local organisers for the EUDIS Hackathons – centralising the data collection, evaluation and scoring/selection process, and reporting.

**Idea Mentor:** These are local experts recruited by the local hackathon organizers who assist teams in their hackathon journey up till the mentoring programme. They will have a vast knowledge in startups, lean practices, agile processes, coaching, and innovation

## Introduction and background

Since 2016, the European Union (EU) has embarked on a journey to strengthen its defence sector in response to evolving security challenges and a changing geopolitical landscape. Faced with concerns over territorial integrity, non-traditional threats, the EU has taken significant steps to enhance defence cooperation, capabilities, and strategic autonomy – through initiatives such as Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Fund (EDF), and the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD).

However, the ongoing Russian military aggression against Ukraine has dramatically changed the security environment in Europe, acting as a wake-up call for all. The EU and its Member States abruptly began to revert political stances once considered immutable and have taken several steps to reinforce the European defence industry. Substantial increases have been made to Member States' defence budgets. In 2021, total European defence spending stood at a new high of €214 billion, marking a further 6% increase on 2020 and the seventh year of consecutive growth and a collective sum of €290 billion per annum projected for 2025. In addition to the increase of the budget, the EU has continued to explore partnerships with non-EU European countries and like-minded nations, strengthening its strategic relationships and fostering cooperation in defence matters.

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and evolving security challenges, innovation plays a pivotal role in strengthening defence capabilities, reducing strategic dependencies, and ensuring competitiveness on the global stage. Recognizing the need for transformative measures in the defence sector, the EU has launched the European Union Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS) as a strategic framework to foster defence innovation across its Member States and Norway. The EUDIS Hackathons, a cornerstone initiative within this scheme, holds paramount importance in driving forward defence sector innovation. By fostering collaborations that transcend traditional boundaries, the Hackathons creates opportunities for knowledge transfer, technology diffusion, and the integration of innovative approaches from other sectors, which will unleash the full potential of Europe's innovative capacity to shape the future of European defence.

The European Defence Industry sector is facing several challenges like fragmentation (demand and supply), under-investment, access to funding and critical raw materials and semiconductors and lack of manufacturing capabilities among others. Innovation represent one of the main instruments to overcome at least part of these challenges. For instance, from a talent perspective, Europe produces more science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) graduates each year than all of North America combined. Furthermore, while it has been inconsistent across the continent, national venture capital ecosystems such as those of France and the UK have been growing faster than the US, with an attractive valuation delta. Combining these facts with a clear and tangible threat from Russia, and the rise of defence spending has the potential to drive a significant innovation of defence and dual-use tech startups across the continent.

## Scope and objectives of the Call for EUDIS Hackathon 2024 local organisers

In light of all the above, **revitalizing and driving innovation across the industry** requires more than just increased funding and fostering cooperation. As aforementioned, a comprehensive approach is required to address a series of longstanding challenges inherent to the sector.

**Defence innovation and startups** have a complex and evolving relationship. Innovation companies and startups are often designed primarily, if not exclusively, for the civil market. That is no simple matter as the defence market is not like any other market. For security reasons, information is classified, there are generally steep barriers to entry and European defence markets are still nowhere near open enough. In a context that has often produced innovation through a top-down approach, startups face unique challenges due to the specific requirements and complexities of the defence sector that need to be solved or taken into consideration for the innovation in the sector to happen. These are:

- Agility and speed
- Funding and capital
- Regulatory and compliance hurdles
- Cultural and organizational barriers
- Scaling-up and manufacturing capabilities
- Access to testing facilities

Within this global scenario and **in the world of innovation and digital solutions**, **hackathons have emerged as powerful measures** for bringing together diverse talents, fostering collaboration, and generating creative solutions to users to complex challenges. The hackathon approach has proven to be a very effective tool to drive sustained innovation and crowdsource solutions to address pressing real-life challenges. The objective for the EUDIS Hackathons is to:

- Promote skills development, and attract, the next generation of defence innovators and talents for the defence sector;
- Foster and bridge various communities, with each other, for example by connecting young researchers and innovators with experts from the defence industry and defence end-users (such as from the Armed Forces);
- Provide a stimulating and nurturing environment for creating innovative defence ideas, solutions
  or prototypes to support the needs of the EU Member States/Norway and the EDF, which would
  contribute to a more competitive and innovative European defence industry; and

 Communicate and promote the EUDIS. By targeting young researchers, innovators, experts from the defence industry, defence end-users, and key stakeholders such as the EDF and EU Member States/Norway, a vibrant and inclusive environment that supports the growth and competitiveness of the European defence industry will be created.

The objective of this Call is to select six EUDIS 2024 Hackathon local organisers located in 6 different EU Member States / Norway. In other words, this Call for proposals hall identify and select six proficient local organizers across the EU / Norway who possess the expertise to successfully execute the envisaged hybrid hackathons while ensuring seamless implementation.

## Hackathon theme and challenges

#### Main theme

The main them for EUDIS Hackathon 2024 is **Digital in Defence**.

The theme for this year's EUDIS Hackathon aligns with the European Defence Fund Work Program, leveraging the widespread relevance of digitalisation. Its inclusive appeal extends beyond the area of defence, welcoming participants from a diverse range of backgrounds. The challenge topics within this theme include a variety of cutting-edge concepts such as information superiority, cybersecurity, digital transformation featuring trustworthy and energy-efficient AI, as well as advancements in human language technologies. Additionally, the theme explores the possibilities offered by the Internet of Things (IoT), particularly the integration of advanced passive and active sensors for enhanced situational awareness and operational effectiveness.

The sub-challenges put forward below are highly relevant for current and future defence operational scenarios, not at least in the Ukrainian context.

#### Improving situational awareness

Using multiple intelligence sources fusion presents an opportunity to unlock the potential of integrating AI and other technologies into the fusion of multiple intelligence sources.

In this challenge, you are invited to develop solutions that will increase situational awareness and support battle management systems by providing targeted information faster, more precise, and in a way that improves interoperability between the EU Member States/Norway. This challenge involves combining a large amount of data from different sources such as sensors, satellites, platforms, open-source intelligence, reconnaissance, smartphones and intelligence disciplines. You should explore AI-driven, and other, technologies and techniques for processing, analysing, and finding insights from these diverse data sources, enhancing decision-making capabilities in complex operational environments.

### Cybersecurity in Defence

In this challenge, you will focus on creating innovative tools that utilise Large Language Models for anomaly detection, intrusion prevention, and real-time threat response. You are invited to develop solutions that enhance the resilience of networks against cyber threats, utilising natural language processing to interpret and respond to complex security incidents. Think beyond conventional approaches and revolutionise the way we safeguard digital landscapes, addressing emerging cyber threats with various solutions, such as advanced AI-driven solutions.

#### Subsea Infrastructure Protection

Extend the boundaries of Large Language Models to safeguard critical subsea infrastructure.

In this challenge, you are invited to develop AI- and other technology-driven solutions (for instance related to robotics, underwater sensing or communication) that enhance the monitoring, protection, and resilience of underwater installations such as pipelines, cables, and subsea facilities. Explore applications of AI and other technologies in early detection of potential threats, predictive maintenance of subsea assets, and adaptive security measures that ensure the integrity and functionality of critical underwater infrastructure.

## Funding, support and activities foreseen for selected EUDIS Hackathon organisers

#### Funding, support and resources available

Selected **EUDIS 2024 Hackathon local organisers will be provided with up to 24.000€ grant** to carry out all the required activities for a successful hackathon implementation. An amount of 8.000€ will be transferred as advance payment once the Grant Agreement has been signed. This way the selected organisers can have a float to start with the hackathon preparations immediately.

The rest 16.000€ will be paid once the hackathon is over and the corresponding activity report has been approved. Details about the reporting technical, financial and timing requirements will be described in the Grant Agreement.

Also, hackathon organisers and participating teams will have at their disposal the following resources:

- A Central Hub: Providing support to the selected local organisers and streaming common sessions for all participants.
- **Idea mentors**: Since the hackathon will not just be about problem-solving, but about breaking new grounds, innovative approaches will be embraced encouraging participants to think beyond boundaries and explore uncharted territories. For this purpose, idea mentors will support participating teams in the redefinition of the defence sector.

• **Briefing material**: It will cover a range of essential elements, including the event's goals, theme, rules, and evaluation criteria. To enhance engagement and empower creativity, the programme will also include inspirational case studies, expert interviews, and practical resources that participants can leverage during the event. By providing well-crafted and informative briefing material, the main idea behind is to set the stage for participants to dive deep into the challenges at hand, spark innovative thinking, and foster collaborative problem-solving throughout the hackathon.

Additionally, in order to empower local organizers and streamline the onboarding process, the **EUDIS Hackathons 2024 implementation team will adopt a centralized hackathon platform**. This platform will provide local organizers with the ability to view participant, team, and project information while adhering to GDPR regulations. By providing a unified dashboard, local organizers will be able to monitor participant engagement, team formation, and project idea submissions, thus staying in control of key milestones. Additionally, the **EUDIS Hackathon Central Hub will support local organizers with standardized participant onboarding materials and communication/ promotion resources**. By this offering, local organizers can ensure that participants receive a consistent, uniform and informative introduction to the hackathon process.

#### Preparations and required activities

In return, the selected EUDIS 2024 Hackathon organisers will be **committed to pursue** the following **specific objectives during their hackathons**:

- **1. Attract and develop** the next generation of skilled talent to foster the growth and innovative capacity of the defence sector.
- 2. Engage and nurture a diverse spectrum of students, researchers, innovators, defence personnel, stakeholders, above all citizens, interested in providing breakthrough solutions to support the needs of the European defence sector
- **3. Raise awareness** of the EUDIS initiative and opportunities for revamp the European Defence ecosystem
- 4. To provide winner teams with additional skills facilitating the development of powerful collaborative solutions that will strengthen Europe's Defence Sector.
- **5.** Facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing by connecting young researchers, innovators, defence industry experts, and communities.

Right after the selection process has finalized and the awarded Hackathon organisers have been informed, the following onboarding and supporting activities will be launched for them:

 Kick-off and Onboarding Meetings: At the beginning of the process, selected local organizers will participate in a kick-off meeting where expectations, roles, and responsibilities will be defined. Subsequent onboarding meetings will delve into the details of materials, tools, and support. This will ensure that Open Call awarded local organizers have a holistic understanding of the hackathon process.

- Ongoing Coaching and Communication: Following the initial onboarding, the EUDIS Hackathon implementation team will maintain continuous contact with the selected local organizers through regular coaching calls and check-ins. A dedicated communication channel, such as Slack, Teams, or Discord, will be established to facilitate ongoing discussions, troubleshooting, and information sharing.
- Accessible Online Guides: In addition to meetings and coaching, local organizers will have access to comprehensive written guides available online. These guides will serve as a reliable reference point, offering clarity on hackathon activities and procedures.
- **Standardized Templates and Materials**: Standardized templates and materials will be provided to reduce the administrative burden on local organizers. By offering ready-to-use resources for marketing, communications, and coordination, local organizers can focus on value-added tasks like mentor recruitment and partner engagement.
- Familiar Tools with AI Support: The EUDIS Hackathon implementation team will provide Open Call awarded local organizers with user friendly ICT tools such as EMS (the application submission and project management platform), the abovementioned centralized support platform Teams and SharePoint for communication. A helpdesk with AI chatbots or Power Virtual Agents will provide responses to common queries.

## The awarded local organisers will be responsible for promoting teamwork, innovation, and communication within their local communities.

#### Mentors

A crucial part of a successful hackathon is to have quality mentors, a good Selection Board, and suitable partners. Therefore, the **awarded local organisers**, with the support of the team responsible for EUDIS Hackathon 2024 implementation, will also commit official partners for the local hackathons and all mentors and Selection Board members. Indeed, mentors will play a pivotal role in guiding hackathon participants, offering insights into emerging defence technologies, global security trends, and practical considerations. Their prolonged and continuous mentoring to the winning teams later on during the mentoring programme will enhance the quality of the solutions, pushing them to be not just innovative but also at the forefront of cutting-edge defence ecosystems. For instance, experts from MS/NO MoDs and EDA will be invited to become mentors. These will be very important to provide teams with defence background to advance their solutions.

Except for the onboarding of the experts from MS/NO MoDs and EDA, all activities are local organisers' responsibility, but they will be guided and provided with material and enough time to find and engage with these necessary stakeholders as well as to onboard participants via a **Call for Participants**. DEFIS will take care of the invitations to MS/NO/EDA experts to become mentors. The objective of the call for participants is to recruit at least 300 participants for 6 local events of the EUDIS Hackathon. In this sense, it is expected that each Hackathon organizer will host at least 50 participants. This will be a KPI commitment included in the corresponding Grant Agreement and therefore a condition for final payment of the grant. This call for participants will be open from mid-April until mid-May 2024 and it will be organised centrally. However, with strong support from the awarded local organisers and their partners.

#### PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR JOURNEY

The success of a hackathon is determined by putting the right people in the right setting. Participants will have six main milestones in their journey: Call for participation, Registration and confirmation, Meet-Your-Mentor session, Hackathon, EU-Wide pitching and the Mentoring programme.



Participant registration, selection and attendance confirmation will be managed via the Ultrahack Platform which will provide a seamless participant experience.

After the deadline, local organisers and Selection Boards will select the teams to join the hackathon. These teams will immediately receive an acceptance email from the hackathon platform along with a request to confirm their participation. This will help the local organisers to determine the actual attendance of the hackathon and prepare the physical location to accommodate all participants.

The confirmed participants will also receive calendar invites for the pre-hackathon Meet Your Mentor session and the hackathon dates. Activities for onboarding and supporting participants will then commence. The picture below depicts the journey described above:



## **Eligibility criteria for applicants**

#### Who can apply?

Any **private or public entity legally established in the European Union or Norway** and not being subject to control by a non-associated third country or by a non-associated third-country entity will be eligible to submit a proposal to this Call for organisers.

The infrastructure, facilities, assets, and resources that will be used for the purposes of the hackathon must be located on the territory of an EU Member State or Norway.

Furthermore, in order to be considered eligible **applicants must comply with the following techni-cal and organizational requirements**:

- The physical location is suitable for hosting the event, with the capability to have at least 50 participants as well as mentors, judges and also visitors/experts from MoD/EDA (*This includes the* venue, catering of meals and snacks, audio systems, electricity, working stations for each team).
- Every staff member involved in the organization of the EUDIS Hackathon will be an EU or a Norwegian citizen residing in the EU Member States or Norway.
- All onsite and online hackathon participants, mentors and judges are EU or Norwegian citizens residing in EU Member States or Norway.
- The entity must have experience in hybrid events and must have organised in the past at least 1 hackathon or any other form of open innovation programme with at least 50 participants.
- The entity must have Project Management, Event Production Management and Marketing Management skills/competences within the staff members involved in the implementation of the hackathon.
- The entity must have the capability to run a hybrid hackathon in the given timeline (*This includes* all different phases from sponsor and partner recruitment, participant recruitment, a recorded webinar and other pre-hackathon sessions to the preparations and facilitation of the actual hackathon)

- The entity must have the financial capability to host the hybrid hackathon with the given budget and payment timeline (you must secure at least 10k worth of sponsorship (in-kind, monetary, discount or skills), out of which some must be used as a monetary prize for your local winner/s).
- The entity must have good digital connectivity (at least 300 mb/s upload and download capacity and the latency should be lower than 2seconds), allowing running video calls and video streaming and enabling approximately 50 people to connect to internet.
- The entity must have the capability to broadcast the Central Hub content to all online and onsite participants in HD quality and stream the venue in HD quality for the Central Hub as well as to see and include in the Central Hub stream (*you will be provided the streaming server and training from the Central Hub*).
- The entity must have the capability to execute and facilitate prototype testing to validate the teams' final projects, as included in the provided event schedule (*see key dates section of this Guide*).
- The entity must have access to defense-related technical mentors and judges to support and evaluate the teams and they must have the skills to assess and evaluate prototyped solutions, sanity-check code among other topics.
- The entity must have autonomous capability to conduct communication and promotion activities under their own responsibility with dedicated personnel and relevant social media presence, as well as with support of the contractor's plan for communication. The organiser must execute adequate communication and promotional activities, including a recorded pre-hackathon webinar and other promotions, to reach the needed participants, mentors, judges and partners.
- The capability of the organiser to tap into potential participants within the appropriate professional and technical defence-related communities (military academia, think tanks, defence industry, NGOs, etc.), as well as beyond defence-related communities (university faculties, RTOs, networks of digital professionals, clubs of practitioners, start-ups etc.).

In other words, all these questions which are included in the online application, form must be answered with YES in order to be an eligible applicant.

#### Eligible proposals

In order to be considered eligible, proposals must comply with the following requirements:

- They have been submitted before the deadline using CARSA's EMS Platform https://eudis. carsa.es/
- 2. They include a readable technical project description (.pdf document) in English which followed the template provided
- 3. They include CVs (in English) of the team involved

## How to apply

Applicants will **first have to register in the EMS Platform (a cloud-based tool)** accessing the following URL: https://eudis.carsa.es/



General information about the person registering and the entity he/she is representing will be required (first name and family name, email address, telephone, full legal name of the organisation, short name of the organisation, VAT nr., City and Country of location) as well as a user name and a password for establishing the credentials to access the EMS Platform.

This is depicted in the figure below:

	EUDIS Inicar sesión Registro
Register	Tolophane Full Legel name of the organization
Usemane	Shirt harts of the organization
First Name	Country Choose a Country V
Last Name E-mail Address	Passeord Confirm Password Confirm Password
	Register Lögin

Once the registration is completed, **applicants may start to prepare and submit their applications** directly on the EMS Platform. This process consists in <u>3 simple steps</u>:

- 1. Filling in the online application form by providing replies to a set of questions (only YES/NO answers) + declaration/commitments.
- 2. Introducing the project's Name-Acronym and uploading a Technical Project Description (template is provided to all applicants in the EMS Platform and in EUDIS Hackathon 2024 website. Also, as annex to this Guide) and CVs of the team.
- **3.** Pressing the "Submit" button

The picture below illustrates the application process:



## The evaluation process

#### Eligibility check and preparations

<u>The EMS Platform will enable the whole evaluation process</u>. Once the Call closes, the evaluation phase will first start with the **eligibility check**, and will then move to the assessment of the proposals, scoring and ranking of the applications (based on the evaluation criteria described below).

Only eligible proposals (see the 3 requirements above) will be evaluated.

The **selection board will be composed of 3 experts (+2 in reserve list)** in Innovation/Hackathon experts with experience in hackathons or similar innovation competitions, innovation management, or start-up support schemes. The European Commission may also participate in the selection board.

**Avoiding conflicts of interests** is essential to ensure fairness and transparency in the selection process. That is why – before receiving access to the application files, the evaluators from the Board shall make and sign a specific written declaration of absence of conflict of interest to pursue their work as a member of the Selection Board. Where received applications presents a potential situation of conflict of interest for a Board Member (e.g., personal/ financial/professional relation with the applicant) He/ She will be replaced by a member in the reserve list.

#### Assessment of applications

All evaluators will be registered on the EMS platform and will be able to evaluate the applications assigned to them. The evaluation and scoring of the applications will also be documented using a standardised online template on the EMS platform which will include brief qualitative comments on the assessment of the proposal and the score for each evaluation criterion. The total score for each application will be automatically tabulated/calculated by the EMS platform and once all applications have been assessed, it will **generate a ranking according to their evaluation scores**.

All applications received will be evaluated individually and then, the evaluators will meet online to reach a consensus and produce an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) per each application. In case of even scores, the ranking will also take into consideration the capacity to allocate prizes such as cash or consulting services to the best teams. These cases will be discussed and assessed with the European Commission.

### Final selection

The Selection Board together with the European Commission will hold a consensus meeting to complete and decide about the selection of local organisers.

The selection of local organisers will be completed by selecting the best 6 proposals of the ranking list making sure that all the chosen hackathons will be hosted in 6 different EU/Norway countries. In other words, a final exclusion criterion will be implemented to ensure none of the selected EUDIS Hackathon 2024 hosts comes from the same country.

3 applicants will also be put on the back-up list in case the contractual/administrative procedure fails with any of the selected local organisers.

The results of the evaluation will be communicated to all eligible applicants – including the Evaluation Summary Reports. Selected applicants will receive an official award letter and the details and conditions of the contract agreement with the notification email.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Evaluations will be fair, impartial, transparent and carried out in a standardised/consistent manner following the below-outlined evaluation criteria:

	CRITERIA	Max points		
1.	1. Quality of the hackathon's communication and promotion plan, and commit- ment on the number of participants.			
	Appropriateness of the plan for securing 70 participants or 15-20 teams, out of which 50 participants or 10-15 teams will attend the hackathon.	16.5		
	Appropriateness of the communication plan showing the capability to pro- mote the event including the forecasted budget, the current reach on social media, a list of partners willing to promote the event and that can reach the targeted audience	16.5		
2.	<ol> <li>Involvement/participation of relevant contributing partners and the local/re- gional innovation ecosystem (companies, start-ups, universities, RTOs, public entities, etc.)</li> </ol>			
	Appropriateness of the plan for securing partners and sponsors, as well as the amount of sponsorship that will be required and how it will be allocated. Specify which partners/sponsors are already confirmed and which are potential future partners, and the role that each partner will play in the project.	8.5		
	How relevant actors from the Ministry of Defence or Defence innovation agencies are involved in the hackathon. Specification of actors the team will partner with and the plan for securing them as partners	8		
	Access to defence-related and technical mentors and judges to support and evaluate the teams. They should also have the skills to test and evaluate prototyped solutions, sanity-check code, etc. How the right pro- files with industry-specific knowledge are secured. List already secured profiles, if any.	8		
	Appropriateness of the plan to confirm that all participants, mentors and judges are citizens of the EU27 countries or Norway residing in an EU27 country or Norway. Explanations about what local authorities the team will partner with to enable this process.	8.5		

CRITERIA	Max points			
3. Experience of the organizer. Financial and technical capability to ensure digital collaboration between the different hackathon locations (accessibility for individuals to join the event remotely). Quality of the venue (main physical event location). Plans and capability of the organizer to facilitate prototype-building during the hackathon.				
Experience in organising hackathons or other forms of open innovation programmes as well as hybrid events. Competencies of the CVs presented. 3 of these competences are required: 1) Project Management, 2) Event Production Management and 3) Marketing Management. At least two people should share these tasks. <b>[3.5 points max.]</b>				
Appropriateness of the budget presented, its alignment with the foreseen tasks ensuring a good implementation of the hackathon and its comple- mentarity/accordance with DEFIS grant payment timeline. <b>[2 points max.]</b>	8.5			
How the organiser will run the hybrid hackathon in the given timeline, in- cluding participant recruitment, pre-hackathon sessions, all initial prepa- rations and the organisation of the hackathon as a whole. [3 points max.]				
Plan for streaming the Central Hub content to your participants and record- ing the physical hackathon venue live for the Central Hub to see, including potential budget for camera equipment. Teams will be provided the stream- ing server and training from the Central Hub	8.5			
Appropriateness of the physical location for the hackathon, including the venue, catering of meals and snacks, audio systems, electricity and work- ing stations for each team. Venue must ensure that it has the capability to host 50 participants as well as mentors and judges. Appropriateness of the plan to ensure good digital connectivity allowing smooth video calls and streaming of video services approximately 50 people to connect to an internet network.	8.5			
Appropriateness of the plan and the means put at the disposal of partici- pants to build prototypes	8.5			
TOTAL	100			

The **maximum total score is 100 points** and the **threshold** (minimum score to be considered approved) is set on **60 points**.

## Key dates

- Opening of the Call: **14<sup>th</sup> February 2024** at 12:00h (CET)
- Deadline for submitting applications: <u>11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 12:00h</u> (CET)
- Online Info session: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 10:30h (CET)
- Eligibility and Evaluation: [11<sup>th</sup> March 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024]
- Decision on the selected organisers: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (selected teams will be informed this day so it is recommended to regularly check email inbox)
- Kick-off with local organizers selected: 18th March 2024
- Signing of the Grant Agreement: [18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024]
- Call for participants and selection: [10-11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024]
- Hackathon: <u>31<sup>st</sup> May to 2 June</u> (2.5 days during a weekend).
- Live pitching: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 16:30h (CET)
- Mentoring programme: Kick off with winning team's 10th of June 2024

#### The proposed Hackathon weekend schedule is the following:

Friday 31st May (CET)		Saturday 1st June (CET)		Sunday	Sunday 2nd June (CET)	
17:00	Informal Welcome	09:00	Kick-start session	09:00	Kick-start session	
18:00	Hackathon kick-off	09:30	Expert Keynote	12:00	Lunch	
18:30	Local kick-off	10:00	Checkpoint 2	13:00	Submission deadline	
19:00	Checkpoint 1	12:30	Lunch	14:00	Local pitches	
20:00	Dinner	13:30	Pitching Training	16:00	Local Jury Deliberation	
21:00	Social Booster	18:00	Checkpoint 3	17:00	Award Ceremony and Closing session	
		19:00	Dinner			
Interviews with local hosts and local visitors on Day 1 and Day 2!						

## **Support to applicants**

Interested parties may contact EUDIS Hackathon 2024 Open Call for organisers helpdesk at any time if they wish to receive further information about this Call procedure, terms and conditions. Applicants may therefore contact us in the following email address: contact@eudis-hackathon.eu

## Data privacy policy

EUDIS Hackathon 2024 implementation team is fully compliant with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. The EUDIS Hackathon 2024 consortium is responsible for the personal data processing, under automated and analogical means, since its collection, through its organisation and storage, up to its deletion. The EUDIS Hackathon 2024 Consortium keeps a continuous and thorough registry of all its personal data processing activities. The applicants' data will be retained in the EUDIS Hackathon 2024 shared archives until the end of the project activities for which the applicants submitted their applications. No transfer of the personal information will take place to an organisation or a country unless there are adequate controls in place including security of the data and other personal information.

## **Annex – Sections of the Technical Project Description**

[Please be aware of the page's limitation per section. Content provided outside these limits will not be considered for evaluation]

- 1. Hackathon communication and promotion plan and the commitment on the number of participants recruited [3 pages max]
  - 1.1. How do you plan to communicate and promote the hackathon to ensure maximum participation? Can you outline a detailed communication strategy, including the channels you intend to utilize for promotion, your forecasted budget and a list of partners willing to contribute?
  - 1.2. What commitment can you make regarding the expected number of participants? what specific activities will you put in place to achieve this goal?
- 2. Involvement of relevant contributing partners, sponsors, mentors and judges as well as the local/regional innovation ecosystem [4 pages max]
  - 2.1. How will you leverage the local and regional innovation ecosystem to enhance the event's impact? provide a plan for securing partners and sponsors, as well as the amount of sponsorship that will be required and how this will be allocated. Specify which partners/sponsors are already confirmed and which are potential future partners, and the role that each partner will play in the project.

- 2.2. Describe your plans to engage relevant stakeholders from the Ministry of Defense or Defense innovation agencies in your hackathon. Specify which of these stakeholders you will partner with and provide your strategy for securing them as contributors.
- 2.3. Explain how you will secure the right profiles of defense-related technical mentors and judges who will support and evaluate your participating teams during the hackathon. List already secured profiles, if any.
- 2.4. Provide a plan to confirm that all participants, mentors and judges are citizens of the EU27 countries or Norway residing in an EU27 country or Norway. Explain what local authorities you will partner with to enable this process.

# 3. Capability to run a hybrid hackathon, to ensure digital collaboration between hackathon locations, the capability to provide prototype-testing, and the quality of the online and onsite event components [5 pages max]

- 3.1. Describe your experience of organizing hackathons, other forms of open innovation programmes or hybrid events and explain how you will run EUDIS Hackathon 2024 in the given timeline including all the different phases required for a successful implementation. Please describe also how the given budget and payment schedule fit your current financial situation. Finally, present your team (brief profile description with competence, role and experience) and how they will work together to implement this project. Please upload at least 2 CVs.
- 3.2. Provide a plan for streaming the Central Hub content to your participants and recording your own physical hackathon venue live for the Central Hub to see, including potential budget for camera equipment.
- 3.3. Describe the capabilities of the event location(s) you have in mind, highlighting factors contributing to the overall quality of the venue. What measures will you put in place to ensure a seamless and secure digital experience for both on-site and remote participants?
- 3.4. Explain how you plan to facilitate prototype testing during the hackathon.