



Consortium

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Lead Procurer



Buyers Group



Technical and Policy Advisors



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 786886

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Aim

The European Union Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS) has highlighted the need for the EU to further improve its civilian missions, by pursuing better communication, information-sharing, joint reporting, analysis and response planning between member state embassies, EU delegations, Commission services, EU Special Representatives and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions.

CIVILnEXt is a Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) EU-funded project that teams up a group of 5 buyers and 9 technical and expert organizations with significant experience in EU external policies. The project's common challenge is to develop, test and validate a cost-effective and interoperable Operation Control Platform (OCP) that will support EU civilian external policies, including civilian CSDP missions. The innovation technology shall facilitate information exchange and improve situational awareness and operation control, with the aim to contribute to more effective European civilian external action. The PCP project is complementary to ongoing activities in this field, such as the Mission Support Platform (MSP) and "Goalkeeper".

Through a procurement process this project aims to support the development of technological innovation and solutions taking into consideration the findings of CIVILEX, the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) of the 2014-2015 Secure Societies Work Programme under Horizon 2020.



Objectives

- Develop the Operation Control Platform (OCP) through an innovative modular design concept to respond to the diverse needs and contexts of civilian external actions, including CSDP missions, in a cost-effective and interoperable way.
- Work with and build upon existing information management systems and initiatives that are in place in the context of EU external action.
- Cooperate with the Mission Support Platform (MSP) and other initiatives to underpin and support the development of the future OCP.
- Design the OCP not for the users but with the users, following an interactive design, prototyping and operational validation process that results in the documentation, testing and validation of the use of the Platform in two operational scenarios in the Southern EU Neighbourhood and/or Africa and in the Eastern EU Neighbourhood.
- Ensure institutional facilitation for the broad range and the complexity of civilian external action to underpin smart specialization and market uptake of the OCP through further procurements and synergies between FPI, ESIF and H2020 funding (PPI) at EU level.



Benefits

- Higher degree of operational control (24/7) over EU civilian mission personnel, activities and assets.
- Systematically secured information exchange systems within civilian CSDP, EU external action, across institutions and missions and with non-EU actors.
- Development of a single, cost-effective, information system for all civilian external action, including CSDP missions.
- Development of beyond the state-of-the art communication tools to support external policy objectives (e.g. cooperative working, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) environments, sensor-integration and interoperability with EU member states agencies).

