



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Cómhaoinithe ag an  
Aontas Eorpach  
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## **Launch of the call for proposals for funding under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) 2021 – 2027**



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## 1. Introduction

Regulation (EU) 2021/1149<sup>1</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 established the Internal Security Fund. The policy objective of the Fund is to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union, in particular by preventing and combating terrorism and radicalisation, serious and organised crime, and cybercrime, by assisting and protecting victims of crime, as well as by preparing for, protecting against and effectively managing security-related incidents, risks and crises within the scope of this Regulation. The Finance Directorate, An Garda Síochána is the Managing Authority of the Internal Security Fund (“ISF”) for the 2021-2027 programming period.

## 2. Call for proposals

An Garda Síochána, as the Managing Authority for the Internal Security Fund (ISF) 2021 – 2027, invites applications for funding under this programme.

Total funding available to Ireland under the Internal Security fund is €27.55m. Funding on a real cost basis is available to projects that will pursue one or more of the following specific objectives<sup>1</sup> of the fund:

- improving and facilitating the exchange of information between and within competent authorities and relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies and, where relevant, with third countries and international organisations.
- improving and intensifying cross-border cooperation, including joint operations, between competent authorities in relation to terrorism and serious and organised crime with a cross-border dimension.
- supporting the strengthening of Member States’ capabilities in relation to preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalisation, as well as managing security-related incidents, risks and crises, including through increased cooperation between public authorities, relevant Union bodies, offices or agencies, civil society and private partners in different Member States.

The requested amount of funding per proposal should not be lower than €200,000. Should many applications be received and successful, the final amount to be allocated to an applicant’s proposal may be lowered.

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<sup>1</sup> [REGULATION \(EU\) 2021/1149 establishing the Internal Security Fund](#)



## 3. General Principles

### 3.1 Eligibility period

Start of programme: 01/01/2021

End of programme: 31/12/2027

Successful proposals must be commenced prior to 31 December 2027. Eligible expenditure must be incurred and paid in implementing operations, between the date of the grant agreement and 31 December 2029. Expenditure incurred prior to signing of a grant agreement with the managing authority will not be eligible for reimbursement.

### 3.2 Co-funding

Selected projects will be co-funded on the basis of 75% or 90% by the European Union under the ISF (via the Finance Directorate, An Garda Síochána), and 25% or 10% by a funding arrangement to be put in place by the applicant prior to the application being made. All applicants are required to provide evidence of this funding arrangement as part of their application. The remaining 10% or 25% funding cannot be sourced from any other EU Fund.

### 3.3 Eligible expenditure

Articles 63 to 68 of Regulation 2021/1060<sup>2</sup> sets out the conditions for determining the eligibility of expenditure. Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149<sup>1</sup> sets out the scope of support under the fund.

Article 64 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060<sup>2</sup> and article 5(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149<sup>1</sup> outlines the ineligible costs. A full audit trail must be available for all eligible expenses.

Ineligible expenditure per Article 64 of Regulation 2021/1060<sup>2</sup>

1. The following costs shall not be eligible for a contribution from the Funds:

(a) interest on debt, except in relation to grants given in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy;

(b) the purchase of land for an amount exceeding 10% of the total eligible expenditure for the operation concerned; for derelict sites and for those formerly in industrial use which comprise buildings, that limit shall be increased to 15 %; for financial instruments, those percentages shall apply to the programme contribution paid to the final recipient or, in case of guarantees, to the amount of the underlying loan;

(c) value added tax ('VAT'), except:

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<sup>2</sup> [REGULATION \(EU\) 2021/1060 laying down common provisions](#)



- (i) for operations the total cost of which is below EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT);
- (ii) for operations the total cost of which is at least EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT) where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation;
- (iii) investments made by final recipients in the context of financial instruments; where these investments are supported by financial instruments combined with programme support in the form of a grant as referred to in Article 58(5), the VAT shall not be eligible for the part of the investment cost which corresponds to the programme support in the form of a grant, unless the VAT for the investment cost is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation or where the part of the investment cost corresponding to the programme support in the form of the grant is below EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT);

Ineligible expenditure per Article 5(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149<sup>1</sup>

- (a) actions limited to the maintenance of public order at national level;
- (b) actions with a military or defence purpose;
- (c) equipment of which the primary purpose is customs control;
- (d) coercive equipment, including weapons, ammunition, explosives and riot batons, except for training purposes;
- (e) informant rewards and flash money outside the framework of an EU policy cycle/EMPACT operational action.

### 3.4 Environmental and sustainability consideration

Under section 61 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 it is required that “The Fund should support activities that respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and would do no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council.” Applicants may be asked to provide an assessment of the environmental impact of proposals. Proposals determined to potentially result in significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council may be deemed ineligible.

### 3.5 Double funding

Article 191(3) of the Financial Regulation<sup>3</sup> prohibits double funding. Successful applicants must ensure that no double funding occurs.

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<sup>3</sup> [Financial Regulation](#)



## 4. Procedure for application

Applications must be made via the provided application form with all relevant sections completed.

If you require further information or clarification, in the first instance refer to the accompanying guidance document. Otherwise please email [isf@garda.ie](mailto:isf@garda.ie) by 26/06/2026 at the latest.

Proposals must be submitted by **10/07/2026** to the functional area mailbox **only [isf@garda.ie](mailto:isf@garda.ie)** with the subject line "ISF call for proposals 2026 – (*Project name*)". Receipt of proposals will be acknowledged within 24 hours (during weekdays). Should applicants not receive said confirmation they are advised to contact the ISF section mailbox [ISF@garda.ie](mailto:ISF@garda.ie) again.

No modification to the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or to correct clerical mistakes, the Managing Authority may contact the applicant during the evaluation process. A reply should be provided by the Managing Authority within 3 working days from the request date.

### 4.1 Admissibility and assessment aspects

Applications received will be subject to an initial check by the Managing Authority to ensure that they are admissible for consideration. To be considered admissible a proposal must:

- be submitted on time;
- be submitted by an eligible applicant organisation;
- be complete (i.e., all relevant sections completed);
- be signed by a person authorised to submit the application on behalf of the applicant organisation; and
- provide evidence of remaining 10% or 25% funding required.

An eligible applicant organisation is defined as follows;

- Applicant organisation is incorporated in Ireland and will deliver services in Ireland.
- Non-public body applicants must be able to provide financial information to demonstrate that they are not Undertakings in Difficulty (UiD).
- Non-public body applicants must be able to provide evidence of tax clearance status prior to any payment request.

An Garda Síochána will assess admissible proposals based on the below selection criteria. The Evaluation Committee assesses all proposals by reference to the below criteria, with an individual weighting applied to each criterion. A proposal is required to receive an average passing mark for each criterion in order to be recommended for approval.



Criterion	Total marks available
<b>Relevance</b>	40%
<b>Organisation</b>	30%
<b>Proposal Strength</b>	15%
<b>Efficiency</b>	15%

Criterion	Key question	Typical evaluation questions	Minimum passing score
<b>Relevance</b>	To what extent does the project address the Specific Objectives of the ISF and contribute to the selected eligible activity highlighted under the EU programming fiche?	<p>Are project objectives clearly laid out and comply with the aims relating to the applicable Specific Objective (i.e., SO1/SO2/SO3)?</p> <p>How relevant is the proposed project when compared to the requirements outlined in the ISF programming Fiche and its relevance to the applicable Specific Objective?</p> <p>The extent to which the proposed activity fits with existing national policing policies.</p>	30/40 (75%)
<b>Organisation</b>	Is it plausible on the basis of funding in the prior programming period, that the applicant will be able to successfully implement the project proposal and fulfil the obligations attached to the grant?	<p>Is there evidence to support the capacity of the applicant to deliver on the proposed results.</p> <p>Does the applicant have any prior experience of working with ISF requirements?</p> <p>Evidence of the applicant to manage the proposed project in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>Evidence of appropriate governance and financial viability of the organisation.</p> <p>Previous delivery of ISF funded projects and meeting of reporting requirements.</p> <p>Capacity to collect, maintain and monitor key information requirements.</p>	18/30 (60%)
<b>Proposal Strength</b>	Is the project proposal clear and concrete in all areas?	<p>How effective is the proposal and the outlay of the services that are to be made available?</p> <p>How detailed and structured is the</p>	9/15 (60%)



Criterion	Key question	Typical evaluation questions	Minimum passing score
	Are the anticipated activities and results to be achieved quantifiable and measurable?	proposal?  How effective does the Proposal address the requirements of OGP Procurement guidelines?	
<b>Efficiency</b>	How clear and well-structured is the project budget and do the returns offer value for money?	How clear and well-structured is the project budget?  Are the Costs in line with Market norms?  Are the outlined overhead costs reasonable?  Are the overall project costs realistic and relevant?  Does the overall project cost warrant the proposed returns from the project?	9/15 (60%)

#### 4.2 Stages in evaluation of proposals

1. Determination of admissibility of proposals.
2. Amendment of Ireland's National Programme to enable potential funding of admissible proposals.
3. Evaluation of proposals against selection criteria.
4. Notification of outcome of assessment. Successful applicants will then be provided with a grant agreement for signing prior to commencement of proposed activity.