



FRONTEX RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME

Call for Proposals 2022/CFP/RIU/01

NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES FOR BORDER MANAGEMENT (OPEN THEME)

Annex 7 - Ethics, values and the use of AI

Ethics, Values and the use of AI

Project proposals must comply with ethical principles¹, including the highest standards of research integrity as set out in the ALLEA *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*², as well as applicable international and national law, including the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* and the *European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols*. Appropriate procedures, policies and structures are in place³ to foster responsible research practices, to prevent questionable research practices and research misconduct, and to handle allegations of breaches of the principles and standards in the above-mentioned Code of Conduct.

When advanced technologies are investigated and considered for the purpose of applications in border security, special consideration must be given to the fundamental rights implications of applying the outcomes of the research. Therefore, in their project proposals and, if funded during project implementation, the beneficiaries must pay particular attention to the principle of proportionality, the right to the protection of personal data, as well as human dignity, the right to non-discrimination, the right to a good administration, the rights of the child, the right to an effective remedy, the right to the physical and mental integrity of persons, the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

Frontex acknowledges the need for the applicants to provide in their project proposals, whenever relevant and feasible in relation to the achieved stage of RTDI, indications about a possible fundamental rights impact assessment framework for the outcomes of the proposed research, being this key to ascertain the extent to which the adoption of novel technologies might affect different fundamental rights, and to reduce the foreseen negative impacts⁴.

Whenever the activities foreseen in the project proposal involve the use and/or development of artificial intelligence (AI)-based solutions (components, systems and/or techniques), the technical robustness and trustworthiness of these solutions must be clearly demonstrated in the proposal⁵. Wherever appropriate, AI-based solutions must be developed in a safe, secure and responsible manner, with a clear identification of and preventative approach to risks. To a degree matching the type of research being proposed and as appropriate, AI-based solutions should be, or be developed to become (implicitly or explicitly contributing to one or several of the following objectives):

- technically robust, accurate and reproducible, and able to deal with and inform about possible failures, inaccuracies and errors, proportionate to the assessed risk posed by the AI-based system or technique;
- socially robust, in that they duly consider the context and environment in which they operate;
- reliable and to function as intended, minimising unintentional and unexpected harm, preventing unacceptable harm and safeguarding the physical and mental integrity of humans;
- able to provide a suitable explanation of its decision-making process, whenever an AI-based system can have a significant impact on people's lives.

The proposed action must have an exclusive focus on civil applications. Projects intended to be used in military applications or aiming to serve military purposes cannot be funded under this Call for Proposals. If the project involves dual-use items in the sense of EU Regulation 428/2009⁶, or other items for which authorisation is required,

¹ The Applicants are encouraged to refer to the following downloadable guidelines:

- [Identifying serious and complex ethics issues in EU-funded research](#)
- [Guideline for Promoting Research Integrity in Research Performing Organisations](#)

² The ALLEA European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity can be found under this [link](#).

³ Please refer in particular to the [Guideline for Promoting Research Integrity in Research Performing Organisations](#).

⁴ A detailed discussion of fundamental rights impact assessment as a practical tool for protecting fundamental rights can be found in: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, "Getting the future right. Artificial intelligence and fundamental rights", Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2020.

⁵ The Applicants are encouraged to refer to the following downloadable guidelines:

- [Ethics by Design and Ethics of Use Approaches for Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI](#)

⁶ Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 of 5 May 2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items.

the applicants will have to comply with the applicable regulatory framework (e.g. obtain export/import licences before these items are used).

Frontex Research Grants cannot fund any activities that are prohibited in a Member State or in all Member States.

Also, any project directly or indirectly contrary to EU policy or against public health, human rights or against citizen's security will be rejected.