

Budapest, 30 September 2017

**CALL FOR FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIPS WITH MULTIPLE BENEFICIARIES - PILOT
CEPOL KNOWLEDGE CENTRES – FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CEPOL TRAINING AND
LEARNING ACTIVITIES ON COUNTERTERRORISM AND CSDP MISSIONS 2018-2019**

RESTRICTED TO CEPOL FRAMEWORK PARTNERS

Important Note: The present call is potentially subject to changes as CEPOL has requested technical advice by the European Commission (DG BUDGET). Up-to-date (30 September 2017) the said advice has not been received by the Agency.

1. INTRODUCTION

The present Call aims to contribute to the strengthening of internal security including its external aspects by building capabilities of law enforcement officials in the thematic priorities of Counterterrorism and EU Common Security and Defence Policy Missions (hereinafter CSDP Missions) through learning that meets the highest level of international excellence. This will be achieved by the formation of two CEPOL Knowledge Centres (hereinafter CKCs), one per thematic priority area, i.e. one CKC for Counterterrorism and one CKC for CSDP Mission training. Each CKC shall be responsible for the implementation of all CEPOL training and learning activities, such as residential activities, webinars, online modules, etc., in the given thematic priority with the following specific objectives:

- CEPOL Knowledge Centres in cooperation with relevant JHA agencies shall become leading CEPOL training provider for law enforcement in the relevant thematic priority.
- Thematic priority training shall be developed and delivered in a spirit of complementarity, with high quality as the leading principle.
- CKCs shall ensure business continuity for portfolio implementation during the term of the Framework Partnership agreement.

According to Recital 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2219 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2005/681/JHA¹, CEPOL should be able to award grants. Such grants should contribute to fostering cooperation between Member State training institutes within the network and to promoting the mutual recognition of law enforcement.

In line with the approval of CEPOL Management Board taken at its 2nd meeting in May 2017 to establish two pilot CEPOL Knowledge Centres, the Decision of the Management Board 26/2017/MB² and the Director's Decision No. 48/2017/DIR³, the Executive Director of the European

¹ OJ L319, 4.12.2015, p.1.

² Decision of the Management Board 26/2017/MB of 29/09/2017 on approving a pilot phase of CEPOL Knowledge Centres

³ Decision of the Executive Director 48/2017/DIR of 30/09/2017 on the call for framework partnerships with multiple beneficiaries – pilot CEPOL Knowledge Centres – for the implementation of CEPOL training and learning activities on counterterrorism and CSDP missions in 2018-2019

Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), intends to establish two pilot CEPOL Knowledge Centres, one per the following thematic priority:

- Counterterrorism,
- EU CSDP Missions.

2. WHAT ARE FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH MULTIPLE BENEFICIARIES

To achieve the above- objectives, CEPOL intends to conclude two framework partnership agreements with multiple beneficiaries (hereinafter 'CKC partnerships') formed of actors operating in law enforcement training. It is noted that these actors (hereinafter 'CEPOL Framework Partners'), for the period 2017-2020, have already concluded framework partnership agreements with CEPOL following a call launched in January 2016 under Articles 121 of the Financial Regulation and 178 of the Rules of Application⁴.

CKC partnerships are foreseen in particular for those actions for which there is a need:

- for flexibility and/or rapid action in urgent or crisis situations due to the very nature of the action;
- to work on a regular and stable basis with a network involving a certain number of beneficiaries: a network of 'key' players to work alongside CEPOL on a regular and stable basis may need to be set up in order to implement training effectively;
- to award grants for recurring actions to a limited group of beneficiaries (or to those with a monopoly), with the main objective of streamlining the administrative procedures for awarding grants to the beneficiaries concerned.

The total maximum amount for grants to be awarded to CKC Partnerships in 2018 and 2019 will be determined by CEPOL's respective adopted annual Single Programming Document.

A Steering Board (hereinafter 'SB') will be established for each CKC Partnership, co-chaired by the CKC Leader and CEPOL. It shall consist of representatives of partners for the CKC Partnership and CEPOL. Relevant EU institutions may participate as observers. The SB, among other tasks, will assess training proposals and curricula, monitor and steer the implementation and the quality of training. At its first meeting the SB shall agree on its terms of reference.

3. ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

The two CKC partnerships will be concluded with the CEPOL Framework Partners working together under the formulation of consortia. Each one of the two consortia is required to have a minimum of 4 entities.

4. DURATION OF CKC PARTNERSHIPS

⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, as amended and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p.1, as amended.

The CKC partnerships will be operational for two years and will expire on 31/12/2019.

5. AREA OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITHIN CKC PARTNERSHIPS

Activities should aim to support law enforcement cooperation capabilities in the area of counterterrorism, through provision of high quality training and learning activities in the given thematic priority, particularly, but not exclusively:

- Residential activities – courses, seminars, workshops and conferences. The implementation of these types of activities will entail the following:
 - o Organising all the logistical aspects of the activities except the international travel for the participants. The latter are to be organised by CEPOL.
 - o Carrying out the activities in line with the Financial Rules for CEPOL residential training activities as set out in the Decision of CEPOL Executive Director 42/2017/DIR.
 - o Planning and implementing the activities at a high quality level covering all educational aspects (programme, learning outcomes/objectives, delivery methodology, trainers/lecturers, use of LMS, Common Curricula, online learning modules, research findings).
 - o Delivering final report(s) in accordance with the requirements set in the Financial Rules for CEPOL residential training activities, as set out in the Decision of CEPOL Executive Director 42/2017/DIR.
- Online activities – webinars, online courses, online modules and other. The implementation of these activities will require the planning and implementing the activities at high quality covering all educational aspects (programme, learning outcomes/objectives, delivery methodology, trainers/lecturers, use of LMS, Common Curricula, online learning modules, research findings). Technical support, if requested, will be provided by CEPOL.
- On the basis of identified training needs CKC Partnerships shall propose the annual training portfolio for 2019.

6. CONDITIONS AND MODALITIES

6.1. Funding Conditions

- For actions to be undertaken by CKC partnerships, co-funding of up to 95% of the total costs will take place. However, the 95% co-funding will not exceed the total reimbursable costs as set out in the Decision of CEPOL Executive Director 42/2017/DIR. In addition, the funding will cover up to a maximum of EURO 12,000 per year for actual costs incurred by the CKC Partnership Leader in relation to administrative support needed for the implementation of the thematic area by the CKC Partnership.

6.2. Eligibility criteria

- CKC Partnership consortia must be formed by **CEPOL Framework Partners**, as established following the open call launched on 22.01.2016;
- The Application must include:
 1. Completed **Application Form** (Annex 1);
 2. Signed **Partner Mandate forms** (Annex 2), signed and attached in scanned version;

- Applicants must respect the deadline for applications, which is **3 November 2017**.

6.3. Exclusion criteria

It is noted that the check of exclusion criteria has already been performed in the context of the call launched in January 2016, therefore no repetition of the check is envisaged for the present call.

6.4. Selection criteria

Proposals for CKC partnerships shall be evaluated on the basis of the applicants' collective professional capacity and access to specific expertise, as listed below, required for a long-term cooperation with CEPOL for implementing the relevant actions; evidence can be a list of previously implemented training, expertise can be evidenced by CVs of key experts that the CKC Partnership plans to engage in the activities.

Specific requirements for **CKC on Counterterrorism**:

- CKC Partnership should include Framework Partners from those EU Member States (hereinafter 'EU MS'), which have dealt with terrorist attacks in the last three years;
- Collectively the access to the following expertise shall be demonstrated;
 1. Cultural, linguistic, sociological and ideological expertise pertaining to specific terrorist phenomena (Left Wing, Anarchist, Right Wing, Religiously Motivated, eco-terrorism, single issue);
 2. International/ transnational terrorism: key organisations, their structure, their modus operandi, upcoming threats;
 3. Terrorist modus operandi (propaganda, radicalisation, recruitment, financing, planning, reconnaissance, execution of a terrorist plot);
 4. Radicalization process;
 5. Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnees;
 6. Financing of terrorism;
 7. Terrorist use of the internet;
 8. Forensic analysis of electronic evidences in the context of CT cases (mobile, pc, etc);
 9. CBRN/E, weapons and IED;
 10. Crisis management and terrorism crime scene management/investigation;
 11. International information/intelligence sharing mechanisms in CT matters (police and judicial cooperation, cooperation between LEAs and Security Services);
 12. Legal instruments for combatting terrorism.

Specific requirements for **CKC on CSDP Missions**:

- CKC Partnership should include Framework Partners of those EU MS which have previous experience in training law enforcement officials for CSDP Missions either under CEPOL or other projects, e.g. EUPST, ENTRI.
- CKC Partnerships collectively should demonstrate or have access to such expertise in the following areas:

1. Experts who are posted or recently, but not longer than 2 years, have returned from CSDP Missions;
2. FSJ/JHA nexus;
3. Gender aspects in CSDP;
4. Integrity and ethics;
5. Cultural awareness;
6. Organised crime and corruption in host countries;
7. Project management;
8. MMA;
9. Security training, e.g. HEAT;
10. Mediation and Negotiation;
11. Conflict analysis;
12. SSR;
13. Change Management;
14. Fundamental rights in CSDP Missions.

A CKC Partnership will be selected on the basis of the information in the application form and annexed documents provided by the applicants. CEPOL may contact applicants to request additional proof or clarification of supporting documents accompanying the application, or to validate the correction of an error.

Signature of the CKC partnership agreement by the parties shall not give rise to any obligation on CEPOL to award a specific grant. Specific grant agreements will be concluded with CKC Partnerships in the areas of interest.

7. PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

The complete set of documentation must be submitted to CEPOL via email to the following address grants@cepol.europa.eu. The date of dispatch of the email shall be considered as the date of receipt.

7.1 Documents to be submitted for CKC Partnership

The following documents must be submitted in scanned PDF format:

- The application form for framework partnerships (Annex 1), duly completed, dated and signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicants;
- Any documents that evidence professional capacity and access to required expertise.
- A signed Partners mandate Form (Annex 2) for each CKC Partnership member authorising the leader of the CKC Partnership to sign the application on their behalf.

Applicants are free to provide any other documentation which they consider appropriate in support of their application.

7.2 Deadline for submitting applications

The closing date for applications is 3 November, 23:59 CEST. Applications and accompanying documents must be submitted electronically to the following address: grants@cepol.europa.eu.

7.3 Further information

- 7.3.1 Questions may be sent by e-mail to the address grants@cepol.europa.eu, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for CKC partnerships.
- 7.3.2. This invitation to apply for CKC partnerships is in no way binding on CEPOL. CEPOL's contractual obligation commences only upon signature of the partnership agreement with multiple beneficiaries with the successful applicant.
- 7.3.3. CEPOL retains ownership of all applications received under this call. Consequently the applications cannot be returned to the applicants.
- 7.3.4. All costs incurred in preparing and submitting grant applications are borne by the applicants and cannot be reimbursed.
- 7.3.5. All applicants will be informed whether or not their application has been successful.
- 7.3.6. Processing a reply to the invitation to apply for a grant will involve the recording and processing of personal data (such as names, addresses and CVs). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001⁵ on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, replies to the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the invitation to apply for a grant and will be processed solely for that purpose by CEPOL. Applicants are entitled to obtain access to their own personal data on request and to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. If applicants have any queries concerning the processing of personal data, this can be addressed to CEPOL. Applicants have the right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor for matters relating to the processing of own personal data.
- 7.3.7. Applicants are informed that for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interest of the EU personal data may be transferred to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel and/or to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).
- 7.3.8. Data of economic operators which are in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106 or 107 of the Financial Regulation may be included in a central database and communicated to the designated persons of the European Commission. This refers as well to the persons with powers of representation, decision making or control over the said economic operators. Any party entered into the database has the right to be informed of the data concerning it, up on request to the accounting officer of the Commission.

8. EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

CEPOL may contact applicants to request additional information at any time prior to taking decision. Failure to respond to such requests by the set deadline may lead to disqualification of the application. Applicants must take the necessary steps to ensure that they can be contacted rapidly until the end of the selection process. If CEPOL contacts an applicant, this will not in any way constitute or reflect a pre-selection of the proposal on the part of CEPOL.

CEPOL expects to offer CKC partnerships to successful applicants by December 2017. The signature procedure of the agreements is expected to be concluded by 30 December 2017.

⁵ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data, OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p.1.

9. TIMELINE OF THE PROCEDURE

Launch of the Call for CKC partnerships	30 September 2017
Deadline for applications	3 November 2017
Examination of applications	1 December 2017
Signature of Framework Partnership with Multiple Beneficiaries Agreements (CKC partnership)	30 December 2017

Yours sincerely,



Detlef Schröder
Acting Executive Director

Enclosures:

- Annex 1: Application Form
- Annex 2: Partners Mandate Form
- Annex 3: Model Framework Partnership with Multiple Beneficiaries Agreement

