



Call to establish

**4-YEAR FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENTS**

To implement CEPOL training activities and
learning products in 2021-2024

Deadline for submission of proposals: 02/07/2020

1. INTRODUCTION - BACKGROUND

CEPOL was initially founded by Council Decision 200/820/JHA of 22 December 2000 as a body financed directly by the Member States of the European Union and functioned as a network by bringing together the national training institutes in the Member States, whose tasks include the training of senior police officers. CEPOL was later established as an agency of the European Union by Council Regulation No. 2005/681/JHA of 20 September, 2005 (OJ L 256/63 of 1 October, 2005). Since 1 July 2016, the new CEPOL mandate as per Regulation (EU) 2015/2219¹ is in force.

CEPOL contributes to a safer Europe by facilitating cooperation and knowledge sharing among law enforcement officials of the EU Member States and, to some extent, from third countries, on issues stemming from EU priorities in the field of security; in particular, from the EU Policy Cycle on serious and organised crime.

The objectives and the tasks of CEPOL are described in the Articles 3 and 4 of the Regulation (EU) 2015/2219. CEPOL shall support, develop, implement and coordinate training for law enforcement officials including police, customs and other relevant services, Union bodies, responsible for preventing and combating serious crime affecting two or more Member States, terrorism and forms of crime that affect a common interest covered by a Union policy, and for crisis management and international policing of major events. CEPOL shall also prepare multi-annual strategic training needs analyses and multi-annual learning programmes and assess training needs to address EU security priorities.

Article 3(4) of the CEPOL mandate, reflects recital 17 of the latter according to which CEPOL should be able to award grants to the training and research institutes of Member States to perform specific activities within the scope of its objectives and tasks for the implementation of CEPOL's mandate including courses, seminars and conferences. Such grants should contribute to fostering cooperation between Member State training institutes within the network and to promoting the mutual recognition of law enforcement. It is noted that in line with Article 21(2) of the CEPOL mandate, the Management Board has approved (Management Board Decision 13/2020, 29 April 2020) the use of framework partnership agreements as envisaged in the present call.

2. OBJECTIVE(S) – THEME(S) – PRIORITIES

The objective of the present call is to conclude framework partnership agreements² for a period of 4 years (2021-2024) with the training and research institutes of the Member States in order to create a stable and continuous framework of cooperation across Europe. The agency's annual work programme is built with input from its network and other stakeholders, resulting in topical and focused activities designed to meet the needs of Member States in the priority areas of the EU internal security strategy.

This framework partnership call is to foster continuous and effective cooperation envisaging to support the implementation of the annual work programmes of the agency and to contribute to the effective execution of the EU-STNA outcomes and of CEPOL's

¹ 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/JHA, OJ L319/1, 4.12.2015.

² See Article 131 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p 1-222, hereinafter referred to as 'Financial Regulation', available here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1046> .

overall mandate, while ensuring a specialised training offer for law enforcement and judicial staff.

Framework partnership agreements define the respective roles and responsibilities of CEPOL and the framework partners. They present in particular the types of activities envisaged, the procedure for awarding a specific annual grant and the general rights and the obligations of each party under the specific agreements. Following conclusion of the framework partnership agreements, a call for proposals for the award of grants addressed to the framework partners shall be issued annually, however this does not constitute an obligation for CEPOL to award a specific grant on an annual basis.

3. TIMETABLE

	Steps	Date and time or indicative period
(a)	Launch of the Call for Framework Partners	14 May 2020
(b)	Deadline for applications	02 July 2020
(c)	Examination of applications	16 July 2020
(d)	Information to the applicants	20 July 2020
(e)	Signature of Framework Partnership Agreements	13 August 2020

4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

There is no allocation of funds covering the full period of 2021-2024. The total maximum amount for the grants to be awarded to the framework partners on an annual basis shall each time be defined in the Single Programming Document.

5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be admissible, applications must be:

- sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 3;
- submitted in writing (see section 12), using the application form and sent via email to grants@cepol.europa.eu; and
- drafted in any of the EU official languages (in this case, applications should be accompanied by an executive summary in English). However, since English is the working language of CEPOL you are strongly encouraged to use English in order to facilitate the treatment of the proposals and speed up the evaluation process.

Failure to comply with those requirements will lead to rejection of the application.

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

6.1. Eligible applicants

Proposals may be submitted by any of the following applicants:

- Law enforcement agencies (at national, state, regional or local level), public training institutions, and public research institutes.

- Public universities that have working agreements/memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies, training institutions and research institutes of the Member States.
- The applicants must have legal personality established in the EU Member States.

Entities affiliated³ to the applicant are not eligible to apply under the present Call.

6.2 Supporting documents

In order to assess the applicants' eligibility, the following supporting documents are requested:

- Legal Entity Form and Financial Identification form (see Annexes 2 and 3 to the present call);
- Copy of the resolution, decision or other official document establishing the public-law entity;

For public universities having a working arrangement/memorandum of understanding with law enforcement agencies, training institutions and research institutes of the Member States in addition to the above:

- confirmation letter from the cooperating law enforcement agency, training institution, research institute of the Member State stating that the cooperation is existing and has been on-going since 3 years.

6.3. Eligible activities

The following types of activities are eligible under this call for proposals:

- Training for law enforcement and judicial staff in the period 2021-2024, including particularly – but not exclusively – residential training activities and online learning activities.
- Activities aiming towards accreditation on the level of higher education are excluded from this call and will be addressed separately.

7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

7.1. Exclusion

The authorising officer shall exclude an applicant from participating in call for proposals procedures where:

- (a) the applicant is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended, or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under EU or national laws or regulations;
- (b) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the applicant is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;
- (c) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the applicant is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the applicant belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:

³ In accordance with Article 187 FR, entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Articles 136(1) and 141(1) FR and that have a link with the applicant, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation, will be considered as entities affiliated to the applicant.

- (i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the performance of a contract or a grant decision;
 - (ii) entering into agreement with other applicants with the aim of distorting competition;
 - (iii) violating intellectual property rights;
 - (iv) attempting to influence the decision-making process of the [Commission] [Agency] during the award procedure;
 - (v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;
- (d) it has been established by a final judgment that the applicant is guilty of any of the following:
- (i) fraud, within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995;
 - (ii) corruption, as defined in Article 4(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 or Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997, or conduct referred to in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA, or corruption as defined in the applicable law;
 - (iii) conduct related to a criminal organisation, as referred to in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;
 - (iv) money laundering or terrorist financing within the meaning of Article 1(3), (4) and (5) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
 - (v) terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA, respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;
 - (vi) child labour or other offences concerning trafficking in human beings as referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- (e) the applicant has shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations in the performance of a contract or a grant decision financed by the CEPOL, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by an authorising officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;
- (f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the applicant has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95;
- (g) It has been established by a final judgement or final administrative decision that the applicant has created an entity in a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations of mandatory application in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business;
- (h) it has been established by a final judgement or final administrative decision that an entity has been created with the intent referred to in point (g);
- (i) for the situations referred to in points (c) to (h) above, the applicant is subject to:

- (i) facts established in the context of audits or investigations carried out by European Public Prosecutor's Office after its establishment, the Court of Auditors, the European Anti-Fraud Office or the internal auditor, or any other check, audit or control performed under the responsibility of an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body;
- (ii) non-final judgments or non-final administrative decisions which may include disciplinary measures taken by the competent supervisory body responsible for the verification of the application of standards of professional ethics;
- (iii) facts referred to in decisions of persons or entities being entrusted with EU budget implementation tasks;
- (iv) information transmitted by Member States implementing Union funds;
- (v) decisions of the Commission relating to the infringement of Union competition law or of a national competent authority relating to the infringement of Union or national competition law; or
- (i) decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body.

7.2. Remedial measures⁴

If an applicant declares one of the situations of exclusion listed above (see section 7.1), it must indicate the measures it has taken to remedy the exclusion situation, thus demonstrating its reliability. This may include e.g. technical, organisational and personnel measures to correct the conduct and prevent further occurrence, compensation of damage or payment of fines or of any taxes or social security contributions. The relevant documentary evidence which illustrates the remedial measures taken must be provided in annex to the declaration.

7.3. Rejection from the call for proposals

The authorising officer shall not award a grant to an applicant who:

- (a) is in an exclusion situation established in accordance with section 7.1; or
- (b) has misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the procedure or has failed to supply that information; or
- (c) was previously involved in the preparation of documents used in the award procedure where this entails a breach of the principle of equal treatment, including distortion of competition, that cannot be remedied otherwise.

Administrative sanctions (exclusion)⁵ may be imposed on applicants, if any of the declarations or information provided as a condition for participating in this procedure prove to be false.

7.4. Supporting documents

The applicants must sign a declaration on their honour (see Annex 4 to the present call) certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 136(1) and 141 of the Financial Regulation concerning exclusion and rejection from the procedure respectively.

⁴ Article 136(7) of the Financial Regulation.

⁵ Article 138 of the Financial Regulation.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA⁶

8.1 Financial Capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the duration of the grant and to participate in its funding. The applicants' financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of a declaration of honour (see Annex 5 to the present call).

8.2 Operational capacity

Applicants must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the envisaged actions. In this respect, applicants have to submit a declaration on their honour (see Annex 5 to the present call), and the following additional supporting documents:

- (a) operational responsibilities, with a particular view to statutory responsibilities on training activities for the law enforcement and judiciary bodies.
- (b) overview of training programmes for a law enforcement audience (including the judiciary body) that have been implemented (either fully or partially) by the applicant in last 2 calendar year(s).

9. AWARD CRITERIA

The award criteria allow the evaluation of the quality of the proposals in relation to the objectives of the call. Eligible applications will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

ITEM	POINTS	WEIGHTING
<p>1. EU-level Training expertise and resources</p> <p>a) Topics on which the applicant is expected to be able to organise CEPOL training activities in the coming 4 years</p> <p>b) Presence of experienced human resources to design and implement EU-level training activities in the next 4 years</p>	<p>min. 1 priority = 5 pts</p> <p>1 extra point for every other priority up to a maximum of 10 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• min. 1 staff = 5 pts,• 2 staff = 8 pts,• more than 2 staff = 10 pts	40%
<p>2. Learning environment (space, equipment, support)</p> <p>a) Hosting offer in the coming 4 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Training and accommodation in own premises	<p>Min.req.: 5 pts</p> <p>Max.pos.: 10 pts</p> <p>In own premises = 10 pts</p> <p>Half/half = 8 pts</p>	

⁶ Article 198 of the Financial Regulation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training in own premises , accommodation in hotel - Training and accommodation in hotel <p>b) Learning environment offer in the coming 4 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large conference room (i.e. minimum capacity for 30 persons) - Break-out rooms - Computer room - Technical equipment (microphones, projector etc.) - Technical support staff - Internet connection - Other training material (flip charts, pens, whiteboard etc.) - Area for intervals (inside/outside, smoking area) 	<p>In hotel = 5 pts</p> <p>Min. required: 5 pts Max. possible: 10 pts</p> <p>Minimum requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large conference room • Break-out rooms • Technical equipment • Technical support staff • Internet connection <p>= 5 pts</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer room = 2 pts • Other training material = 2 pts <p>Area for intervals = 1 pt</p>	<p>40%</p>
<p>3. Capacity for implementing CEPOL training activities:</p> <p>Number of training activities per year which the applicant could implement in the coming 4 years.</p>	<p>Min.req.: 5 pts Max.pos.: 10 pts</p> <p>1 activity = 5 pts Any other number of activities = 5 pts (not per activity)</p>	<p>20%</p>

10. LEGAL COMMITMENTS⁷

A framework partnership agreement detailing the conditions of cooperation will be sent to the successful applicant, as well as information on the procedure to formalise the agreement of the *parties*.

11. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The grants envisaged to be awarded to the framework partners will be taking the form of reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred. Please refer to Article II.19 of Annex I, to the model Framework Partnership Agreement as well as to Article 3 of the model Grant Decision (see Annexes 6 and 7 to the present Call) for the criteria applied to eligible costs.

12. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline set out under section 3.

⁷ Article 201 of the Financial Regulation.

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, CEPOL may contact the applicant during the evaluation process⁸.

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the selection process.⁹ Applications must be submitted in the correct form (see Application Form in Annex 1 to the present Call), duly completed, signed and dated by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant;

The complete set of scanned documentation must be sent to CEPOL by email to the following address¹⁰: grants@cepol.europa.eu.

13. EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

The received applications will be assessed by an Evaluation Committee which will be appointed by the Authorising Officer. To be assessed an application needs to meet the admissibility requirements. The task of the Evaluation Committee will be to propose a list of potential framework partners to the Authorising Officer, based on the evaluation of compliance with the selection and award criteria. The Evaluation Committee will also be responsible for examining and validating the eligibility criteria before evaluating the applications in the light of the selection and award criteria. An applicant will be deemed to be successful as long as the application has gathered a minimum of 25 points in accordance with the weighting (10 for item 1; 10 for item 2; 5 for item 3 of the award criteria).

14. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation EU No 2018/1725¹¹ 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, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the Head of Training Unit of CEPOL.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System by the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 136 and 141 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046¹². For more information see the Privacy Statement on:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/data-protection-public-procurement-procedures_en

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

Questions may be sent by e-mail to the address listed below, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Framework Partners:

E-mail address: grants@cepol.europa.eu

⁸ Articles 151 and 200(3) of the Financial Regulation.

⁹ Article 200 of the Financial Regulation.

¹⁰ Article 149(5) of the Financial Regulation.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC

¹² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1046>

➤ **Annexes:**

Documents to be completed:

- Annex 1: Application Form
- Annex 2: Legal Entity Form
- Annex 3: Financial Identification Form
- Annex 4: Declaration on Honour (Exclusion criteria)
- Annex 5: Declaration on Honour (Selection criteria)

Documents for information purposes:

- Annex 6: Model Framework Partnership Agreement
- Annex 7: Model Grant Decision