



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

Security  
Research

Sensitive RTD actions

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# What is a **sensitive** project?

## Project coping with:

- Data or information requiring protection against unauthorised disclosure: **classified information**
- Biological, chemical, radioactive or nuclear **dangerous** materials
- Information or materials subject to security **restrictions**
- Material subject to **export- or transfer-control**

*Some subjects are sensitive and have always been addressed nationally.*



# Classification of information

- Each country has a **national** classification system
- In order to allow exchange of sensitive information inside the EU, an **EU classification** system has been established
- This EU classification is **recognised** by all Member States
- In an **European project**, classified information may be exchanged between the EU participants on the basis of the EU classification procedures
- Each Member State has designated a **National Security Authority (NSA)**
- The NSAs are managing the EU classification procedures for the entities located in their Member States



## Levels of **classification** of information

- **EU TOP SECRET**: unauthorised disclosure could cause **exceptionally grave prejudice** to the essential interests of the European Union or of one or more of its Member States.  
*There will be no EU TOP SECRET classified information in an FP7 action.*
- **SECRET UE**: unauthorised disclosure could **seriously harm** the essential interests of the European Union or of one or more of its Member States.
- **CONFIDENTIEL UE**: unauthorised disclosure could **harm the essential interests** of the European Union or of one or more of its Member States.
- **RESTREINT UE**: unauthorised disclosure could be **disadvantageous to the interests** of the European Union or of one or more of its Member States.



## Sensitive proposals with non-EU participants

- **EU classification** is limited to EU members
- Each Participant in an EU-project should respect its **national** legislations and restrictions
- Sensitive projects could include participants from **associated** countries and from **third** countries
- **Countries having a** security agreement with the EU (Council level) could refer to that security agreement for the handling of sensitive information and material
- Special MoU (**Memorandum of Understanding**) could be agreed between the countries involved in the handling of sensitive information/material of a project limited to that project

*No restriction for the participation to sensitive projects for associated countries and from third countries if no access to sensitive information/material*



# Use of sensitive information

- For the first call, classified information may not be used in the proposal
- However, the project could use classified/sensitive background and/or produce classified/sensitive foreground
- In that case,
  - The proposal should be flagged on page 1 of the part B of the proposal as **security sensitive**
  - The table of deliverables must specify the **level of classification** for each deliverable
  - A **Security Aspect Letter (SAL)** must be attached to the proposal

*In the future some calls will be open for classified proposals*



# Cover Page of Part B of the proposal

- Theme 10: Security
- Call FP7-SEC-2007-1
- **DECLARATION: This proposal concerns/does not concern a security sensitive project**
- Proposal full title:
- Proposal acronym:
- Type of funding scheme:
  - Collaborative Project
  - Integration Project or Capability Project
- Work programme topics addressed (*if more than one, indicate their order of importance to the project*)
- Name of the coordinating person:
- List of participants:



## List of Deliverables with 'classified information'

Del. no.	Deliverable name	WP no.	Lead participant	<i>Estimated indicative person-months</i>	Nature	<b>Dissemination level</b>	Delivery date
TOTAL							

**Please indicate the dissemination level using one of the following codes:**

*PU = Public*

*PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services).*

*RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services).*

*CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).*

**CL restraint UE = Classified with the mention of the classification level "Restreint UE"**

**CL confidentiel UE = Classified with the mention of the classification level "Confidentiel UE"**

**CL secret UE = Classified with the mention of the classification level "Secret UE"**



# Security Aspects Letter (SAL)

**SAL must be part of the proposal and contains:**

- **Level of classification of background and foreground**
- **Requirement to have export or transfer licences**
- **Special restrictions applicable to some material**
- **Access of participants to information**
- **Clearances (or requests)**
- **Export or transfer licences (or requests)**

*This should be done in agreement with the NSA*



# SAL (Classified information)

Use of classified Background information						
Subject	Classification level	Owner (+country)	Beneficiaries wanting to access			Comments including purpose of the access
			Name (+country)	Clearance	Date of access	

  

Production of classified Foreground information						
Subject	Classification level	Owner (+country)	Beneficiaries involved in production or wanting to access			Comments including purpose of the access and future use of information
			Name (+country)	Clearance	Date of production	



# SAL (Export/transfer licence - topics submitted to legal restrictions)

Exchange of sensitive material subject to export or transfer licence						
Subject	Type of material	Owner (+country)	Beneficiaries requiring access to sensitive material			Comments including purpose of the export or transfer
			Name (+country)	Licence ref	Date of transfer	

Topic submitted to legal restrictions						
Subject	Restrictions description	Ref to national or international legislation	Beneficiaries subject to restrictions			Comments
			Name (+country)	Action taken	Date of action	



# Handling of sensitive projects

- The sensitive projects must be **declared** by the proposers
- The **evaluators** will **verify** that sensitive projects are identified by the proposers
- The Commission staff or the Committee members could **request** that some proposals are identified as **sensitive**
- A **scrutiny procedure** will be organised for all sensitive proposals which are on the ranked list (projects for negotiation or on reserve list)
- The results of the scrutiny could be
  - ➔ Recommendations to the Commission for the negotiation of the project
  - ➔ Recommendation not to finance the project because some participants have not the necessary experience and skills for the management of sensitive projects
- The proposers will receive a report with the conclusions of the scrutiny procedure



# Some recommendations

- Be **serious** about the sensitivity declaration
- Consider carefully the requirements for accessing sensitive information/material in a project (**limit** it as far as possible)
- Get reference of **all applicable EU and national legislation**
- Contact your National Contact Point (**NCP**) – see CORDIS
- Contact your **NSA** for sensitive proposals (OJ L193 of 23.7.2005 p.31-36)
- For non-EU countries find out if there are some **security agreement** between your country and EU