

FCT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION LANDSCAPE COUNTRY PROFILE: FRANCE

About ENACT

ENACT is a knowledge network focused on the fight against crime and terrorism (FCT). The network is funded under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme in Cluster 3 – Civil Security for Society. The project addresses the call topic HORIZON-CL3-2022-SSRI-01-02 ‘Knowledge Networks for Security Research & Innovation’, aiming to collect, aggregate, process, disseminate and make the most of the existing knowledge in the FCT area.

The project aims to satisfy two major ambitions,

- Provide evidence-based support to the decision-makers in the EU research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem in the FCT domain, targeted explicitly at enabling more effective and efficient programming of EU-funded R&I for the fight against crime and terrorism.
- Act as a catalyst for the uptake of innovation by enhancing the visibility and reliability of innovative FCT security solutions.

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Overview

The **Fight against Crime and Terrorism (FCT)** domain is a critical pillar within the European Union's security research framework, designed to address the increasingly complex and transnational threats facing Europe today. **FCT** research aims to provide innovative solutions, tools, and knowledge to empower law enforcement, policymakers, and civil society to prevent, detect, and respond to criminal and terrorist activities across the continent. The European Union supports collaborative research and innovation through key programmes like **Horizon Europe**, focusing on multidisciplinary approaches that combine advanced technology with robust legal, ethical, and societal safeguards.

In line with **ENACT**'s objectives, this flash report is part of a series of reports that reviews the **FCT R&I** ecosystem in each EU Member State based on their participation in EU-funded **Security Research** under the **FCT** area between 2021 and 2024. The data used for the report comes from the most recent data available from **CORDIS** and the **Horizon Dashboard**, combined with data processed by **ENACT** under its **Structured Knowledge Base (SKB)**.



France Infobox



Capital: Paris

Official EU Language(s): French

EU Member State: since 1 January 1958

Currency: euro (€)

Euro Area Member: since 1 January 1999

Schengen Area Member: since 26 March 1995

Figures¹

- **Geographical size:** 638 475km²
- **Population:** 68 635 943 (2025)



France plays a leading role in the **FCT** domain, ranking amongst the top beneficiaries of **Horizon Europe** funding, with approximately 11.4% of the total allocated budget. French stakeholders are highly engaged in cross-sector projects, frequently assuming coordination responsibilities or leading key work packages. A distinctive feature of France's participation is the role of the **Police Nationale** and **Gendarmerie Nationale**, two key actors in many EU-funded security projects. Their involvement ensures a strong alignment between research activities and real-world law enforcement needs, particularly in areas such as **Internal Security**, **Crisis Management**, and the **Protection of Public Spaces**. Alongside these security forces, a broad ecosystem of public research institutions, governmental bodies, and industrial partners contributes to the national effort. France's research and innovation community is actively involved across a wide range of **FCT** priorities, including **Artificial Intelligence**, **Cybersecurity**, **Border Management**, and **Digital Transformation**. Beyond technological development, French actors also play a significant role in shaping regulatory frameworks and promoting the exchange of best practices, especially in the fields of law enforcement and judicial cooperation.

This strong engagement reflects both France's robust scientific and industrial base and a strategic approach closely aligned with European priorities and national security objectives. It reinforces France's position as a key security partner within the **European Union**, strengthens its influence in policymaking processes, and enhances the operational impact of **FCT** research outcomes at both national and EU levels.

¹https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/eu-countries/france_en

Country overview in FCT Research & Innovation

France's country profile in the **FCT** domain will be examined from three perspectives: policy coverage, functional coverage, and technology, in accordance with the **EU Civil Security Taxonomy (EUCST)**.²

FCT Policy Coverage

The policy coverage charts underline France's comprehensive engagement across the full spectrum of **Fight against Crime and Terrorism (FCT)** research and innovation priorities. In alignment with the thematic framework defined by the European Commission under the **FCT** domain of the **EUCST**, France addresses a wide range of security challenges, reflecting both the scale of its national security apparatus and the diversity of threats it faces. These include **Organised Crime**, **Drug Trafficking**, **Human Trafficking**, **Terrorism and Radicalisation**, and the **Protection of Public Spaces**.

The figure below presents the distribution of French participation across the main **Security Research** domains: **OC (Organised Crime)**, **TR (Terrorism and Radicalisation)**, **CC (Cybercrime)**, and **HSI (other Horizontal Societal Issues)**.

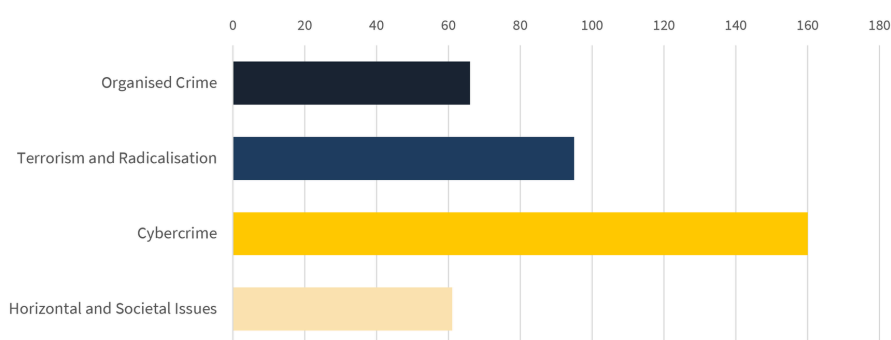


Figure 1: Policy coverage across French participants in the ENACT Stakeholders Directory

The distribution reveals a marked concentration in **Cybercrime**-related activities, which significantly exceed all other domains. **Terrorism and Radicalisation** constitute the second most prominent area, followed by **Organised Crime**. This configuration highlights a strategic prioritisation of digital threats, combined with sustained engagement in core internal security challenges.

A more granular analysis shows that the highest level of participation is concentrated in activities related to the **Dark Web**, including **Illegal Online Markets** and **Cryptocurrencies**, which stand out above all other categories.

² https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/ceris-community-european-research-and-innovation-security/eu-security-market-study/eu-civil-security-taxonomy-and-taxonomy-explorer_en

Strong involvement is also observed in broader forms of **Cybercrime** and in **Digital Forensics**, confirming the central role of technologically driven investigations in the French security ecosystem.

High levels of participation are likewise visible in areas linked to **Terrorism and Radicalisation**, as well as the **Protection of Public Spaces**, reflecting a continued operational focus on counterterrorism. In the field of **Organised Crime, Trafficking of Human Beings and Goods** emerges as a key priority, alongside **Economic Crime, Corruption, and Fraud**.

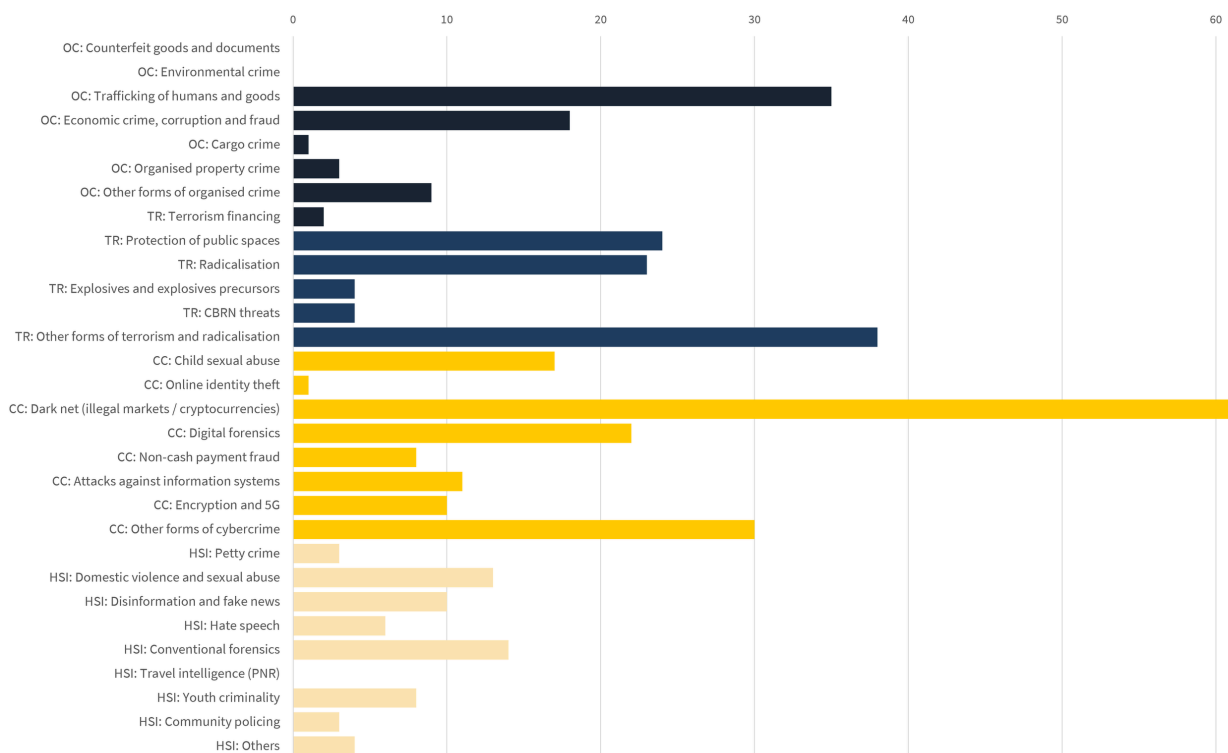


Figure 2: Policy coverage at level 3 across French stakeholders

FCT Functions Coverage

The analysis of functional coverage highlights France's strong involvement across a broad range of operational and research activities within the **FCT** domain. Participation spans the full continuum from capability development to field deployment, ensuring a close alignment between innovation and operational needs. This approach reflects the structure of French security forces, particularly those with military status, whose missions require high levels of readiness, mobility, and coordination.

The chart shows that the highest levels of participation are concentrated in **Mobility and Deployability**, followed by **Training and Exercises**, and **Data and Intelligence Gathering and Exploitation**. This distribution points to a clear emphasis on operational preparedness and the ability to project and coordinate security capabilities in complex environments.

Significant engagement is also observed in **Personal Equipment, Investigation and Forensics**, and **Monitoring and Surveillance**, further reinforcing the operational orientation of French contributions. By contrast, lower participation is visible in areas such as **Positioning and Tracking, Identification Processes**, and **Physical Access Control**, which appear less central in the overall distribution.

Overall, this functional profile reflects a security model closely aligned with the needs of forces operating at the interface between civilian and military domains, ensuring that research outputs can be effectively translated into field operations and crisis response.

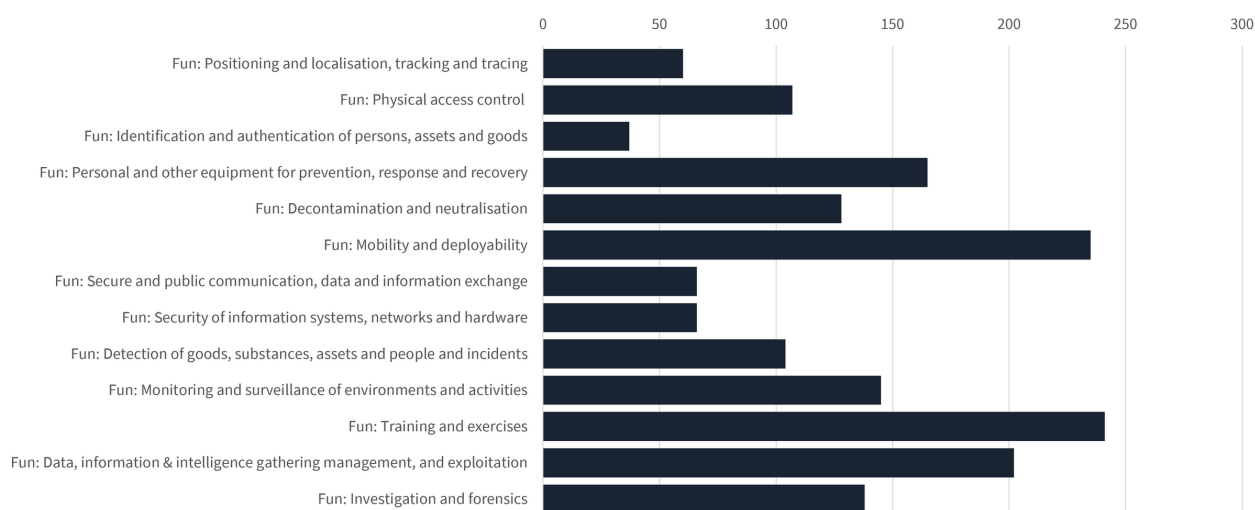


Figure 3: Functions coverage across French stakeholders

FCT Technology Domain Coverage

The technology coverage charts show that French stakeholders address a broad range of security technologies, with a clear emphasis on deployable, field-oriented capabilities aligned with the needs of military-status security forces. **General Equipment** emerges as the dominant category, followed by **Training and Simulation** and **Critical Communication Systems**. Other well-represented areas include **Physical Protection**, **Medical and Protective Equipment**, and **Monitoring Tools**. **Digital Technologies**, such as **Data Analytics**, **Digital Forensics**, and **Online Investigation**, are present but primarily support operational functions. Overall, the distribution reflects a technology approach focused on readiness, interoperability, and direct applicability to security operations.

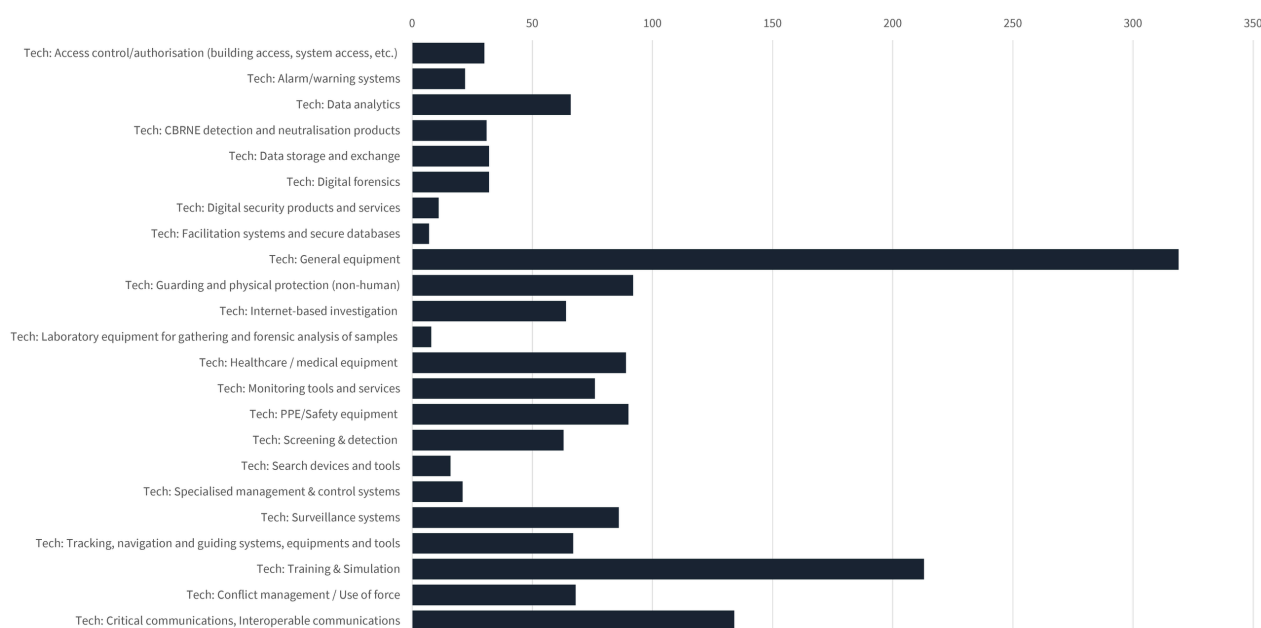


Figure 4: Technology coverage across French stakeholders

Overview of France's Horizon Europe participation metrics

The following chart compares France's key performance indicators with EU averages in the **Horizon Europe FCT** domain, highlighting its level of participation and positioning within European security research.

France	21	2.05	€ 525,342.23	€ 476,012.24	7	€ 2,216,039.50
	Signed Grants	Average Participation	Average Total Cost	Average EU Contribution	SME Participation	SME Net EU Contribution
EU	41	18.12	€ 4,310,115.27	€ 3,987,660.71	172	€ 44,114,024.00
	Signed Grants	Average Participation	Average Total Cost	Average EU Contribution	SME Participation	SME Net EU Contribution

Figure 5: French project participation metrics compared to EU

During this period, 21 out of 41 signed FCT grants include French beneficiaries, confirming steady involvement across the programme. On average, each project includes 2.05 French participants, indicating a more selective presence within consortia compared to the EU average. French entities account for approximately 9% of the average project budget, reflecting a moderate but consistent contribution to funded activities. SME participation remains limited, with 7 French SMEs involved, pointing to a participation model largely driven by public institutions and established actors rather than smaller enterprises.

Overall, these indicators suggest a structured and targeted engagement, characterised by selective participation in consortia and a focus on operationally relevant projects, in line with France's security priorities.

Based on the figures above and the table below, France ranks sixth for total participations, joint eighth in terms of signed FCT grants, and fifth in terms of EU contribution.

Country Code	Country	Signed Grants	Total Participations by Country	Net EU Contribution
EL	Greece	34	90	€ 26,290,653.24
ES	Spain	34	87	€ 17,409,733.00
IT	Italy	25	65	€ 17,590,799.90
UK	United Kingdom	30	52	€ 4,525,528.75
DE	Germany	27	48	€ 13,558,133.33
FR	France	21	43	€ 10,163,819.63
BE	Belgium	23	39	€ 9,606,930.16
FI	Finland	22	29	€ 5,954,334.86
PT	Portugal	21	28	€ 4,924,522.00
NL	Netherlands	19	27	€ 8,513,248.75
PL	Poland	16	26	€ 5,898,789.00
CY	Cyprus	18	23	€ 5,723,581.25
RO	Romania	14	22	€ 2,733,978.00
MD	Moldova	18	20	€ 1,288,120.00
AT	Austria	12	16	€ 4,347,636.75
BG	Bulgaria	6	13	€ 2,241,263.14
CZ	Czechia	10	13	€ 2,061,742.25
LU	Luxembourg	10	11	€ 4,401,443.75
CH	Switzerland	8	11	€ 0.00
IE	Ireland	7	10	€ 3,456,761.80
SE	Sweden	10	10	€ 2,128,071.25
EE	Estonia	7	9	€ 1,177,348.75
SI	Slovenia	4	8	€ 1,201,050.00
IL	Israel	4	5	€ 1,761,025.00
RS	Serbia	4	5	€ 478,496.25
HU	Hungary	3	4	€ 1,731,153.75
HR	Croatia	2	3	€ 602,395.26
LT	Lithuania	2	3	€ 420,080.00
MT	Malta	3	3	€ 283,356.00
NO	Norway	3	3	€ 1,071,048.75
SK	Slovakia	1	3	€ 831,038.50
CA	Canada	2	2	€ 418,417.50
DK	Denmark	2	2	€ 107,375.00
XK	Kosovo*	2	2	€ 78,750.00
MK	North Macedonia	2	2	€ 67,226.25
TR	Türkiye	1	2	€ 160,432.50
AL	Albania	1	1	€ 48,750.00
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	€ 59,625.00
IS	Iceland	1	1	€ 42,430.00
UA	Ukraine	1	1	€ 135,000.00

Table 1: Comparison of France to other participating countries in Horizon Europe for signed grants, total project participations and net EU contribution

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

Participants Summary

French participation in **Horizon Europe CL3-FCT** projects includes a wide range of organisations, reflecting a well-balanced security ecosystem. While private for-profit entities represent the largest share of participants, public bodies, including law enforcement agencies, also account for a significant proportion, alongside research organisations and higher education institutions.

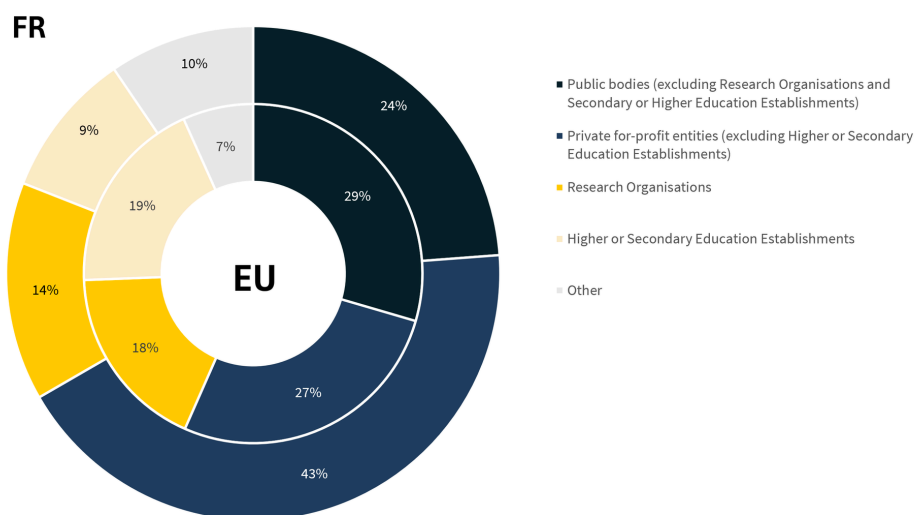


Figure 6: Organisational types of French participation compared to the EU average in Horizon Europe projects

This distribution highlights a model combining industrial capacity with strong institutional involvement. In particular, the presence of law enforcement actors ensures a close link between project activities and operational needs, while research organisations contribute to scientific and technological development.

Overall, this composition supports an approach where innovation is driven by industry and grounded in real-world security applications, ensuring the relevance and applicability of project outcomes.

Top End Users

End User	Total Cost	Signed Grants	Total EU Contribution
Ministere De L'Interieur	€ 1,601,000.00	10	€ 2,435,250.00
Grand Total	€ 1,601,000	10	€ 2,435,250

Top Research and Technology Organisations

Research and Technology Organisation	Total Cost	Signed Grants	Total EU Contribution
Forum Européen pour la Sécurité Urbaine	€ 365,250.00	2	€ 365,250.00
Centre D'Action et de Prévention Contre la Radicalisation des Individus	€ 201,500.00	1	€ 201,500.00
Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer	€ 412,500.00	1	€ 412,500.00
Grand Total	€ 979,250	4	€ 979,250

Top Industry

Industrial Organisation	Total Cost	Signed Grants	Total EU Contribution
Civipol	€ 1,080,625.00	3	€ 0.00
Elektron	€ 200,875.00	1	€ 200,875.00
Euroquality SAS	€ 276,537.50	1	€ 193,576.00
Fujitsu Technology Solutions	€ 239,375.00	1	€ 0.00
Nokia Networks France	€ 428,250.00	1	€ 428,250.00
Privanova SAS	€ 1,120,581.25	3	€ 1,120,581.25
Sopra Steria Group	€ 621,138.75	1	€ 434,797.13
STAG	€ 141,139.50	1	€ 141,139.50
Thales SIX GTS France SAS	€ 431,250.00	1	€ 301,875.00
Vocapia Research	€ 340,943.75	1	€ 340,943.75
ChapsVision	€ 0.00	1	€ 0.00
Flandrin Technologies	€ 0.00	1	€ 0.00
Functori	€ 505,000.00	1	€ 353,500.00
Suneris Solution	€ 351,250.00	1	€ 351,250.00
Grand Total	€ 5,736,966	18	€ 3,866,788

Top Academia

Higher Education	Total Cost	Signed Grants	EU Contribution
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)	€ 245,212.50	1	€ 245,212.50
Le Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives (CEA)	€ 1,641,489.75	5	€ 1,641,488.25
Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse	€ 338,992.91	1	€ 349,513.75*
Université de Lorraine	€ 303,755.00	1	€ 303,755.00
Université de Strasbourg	€ 175,000.00	1	€ 175,000.00
Université de Toulouse	€ 10,520.84	1	€ 0.00
Grand Total	€ 2,714,971	10	€ 2,714,970

*In a small number of cases, where entities participate with a Linked Third Party, the EU Contribution may appear higher than the Total Cost as the figure includes the amount awarded to both the main beneficiary and to any Linked Third Parties.

Horizon Europe FCT Proposals Summary

France demonstrates a solid level of engagement in **Horizon Europe FCT** calls, with 131 eligible proposals and 20 retained projects during the period. While the overall volume remains proportionate to its level of participation, the distribution reflects a targeted involvement across key security topics aligned with national priorities.

The chart below provides a comparative overview of France's proposal activity against EU benchmarks, highlighting both its contribution and competitiveness within the programme.

France	131	20	262	€ 74,491,722.92	15%
	Eligible Proposals	Retained Proposals	Eligible Applications	Eligible EU Contribution	Success Rate
EU	278	39	4458	€ 1,099,171,410.00	14%
	Eligible Proposals	Retained Proposals	Eligible Applications	Eligible EU Contribution	Success Rate

Figure 7: Statistics for Horizon Europe proposal submission for France compared to the EU overall

With a success rate of 15%, slightly above the EU average of 14%, French proposals demonstrate a strong level of quality and competitiveness in a highly selective environment. Despite a more moderate volume of submissions compared to the EU total, France secures a significant level of EU funding (€74.5 million), confirming the effectiveness of its positioning.

Overall, these indicators point to a selective and performance-driven participation model, combining focused engagement with above-average success rates in Horizon Europe security calls.



Horizon Europe FCT Projects Summary

The portfolio of projects involving French participants reflects a broad and coherent engagement across key FCT priorities, with contributions spanning areas such as **Cybercrime**, **Artificial Intelligence**, **Organised Crime**, and the **Protection of Public Spaces**. French organisations are involved in a wide range of collaborative, multi-partner projects, addressing both technological development and operational challenges.

Acronym	Project Title	Type	No.
VANGUARD	adVANCED technoloGical solutions coupled with societal-oriented Understanding and AwaReness for Disrupting trafficking in human beings	IA	1
Ceasefire	Advanced versatile artificial intelligence technologies and interconnected cross-sectoral fully-operational national focal points for combating illicit firearms trafficking	IA	4
ARIEN	ARTificial Intelligence in fighting illicit drugs production and traffickiNg	IA	1
ENSEMBLE	ENhanced AI-baSEd cybercriMe-oriented collaBorative investigation technologies and capabiLitiEs	RIA	3
FERMI	Fake nEws Risk Mitigator	IA	1
FALCON	Fight Against Large-scale Corruption and Organised Crime Networks	IA	2
KOBAN	Identifying future capabilities for Community Policing	RIA	1
IAMI	Identity Attributes Matrix Initiative	RIA	1
IMPROVE	Improving Access to Services for Victims of Domestic Violence by Accelerating Change in Frontline Responder Organisations	IA	2
SafeHorizon	Innovations in Detecting and Disrupting Crime-as-a-Service Operations	RIA	1
ISEDA	Innovative Solutions to Eliminate Domestic Abuse	IA	2
LAGO	Lessen Data Access and Governance Obstacles	IA	3
POLIICE	Powerful Lawful Interception, Investigation, and Intelligence	RIA	5
PRESERVE	Ethical and Privacy-preserving Big Data platform for Supporting criminal investigations	RIA	1
TENSOR	Research, Intelligence and Technology for Heritage and Market Security	IA	2
RITHMS	Research, Intelligence and Technology for Heritage and Market Security	RIA	1
OSPREY	Online Safety and Security for Protection of Public-Facing Professionals and Democratic Resilience	RIA	2
AMALTHEA	EnAbling a Model-driven deep understAnding of the roLe of gender Towards a Holistic solution against Extremism and radicalization Activities	RIA	1
SALUS	Strengthening law enforcement with advanced IoT forensic tools and enriched investigation schemes, realised by a Software Defined Network Security-as-a-Service architecture	RIA	3

Acronym	Project Title	Type	No.
BEHOLDER	Build and Extend CBRN-E related Hazard-Assessment and Anomaly Detection Capabilities on Urban Environment.	IA	1
CRYPTOACTION	Combating CRYPTO-currency-Facilitated Crime and Terrorism with Interoperable, Trustworthy, AI-Enhanced, Collaborative Tools, Improved Information Sharing, Operations, and Training for LEAS	IA	3

The diversity of topics covered, including **Illicit Trafficking, Digital Investigations, Counterterrorism**, and emerging threats such as **Crypto-enabled Crime**, highlights France's ability to contribute across the full spectrum of security research. Many projects also emphasise applied solutions, including **Forensic Tools, Intelligence Analysis**, and field-oriented capabilities, reinforcing the operational focus observed throughout French participation.

Overall, this project landscape illustrates a structured and thematically aligned engagement, supporting cross-border collaboration while ensuring that research activities remain closely connected to practical security needs.

The following section provides a detailed analysis of policy, functional, and technological coverage, based on the full set of projects presented above.

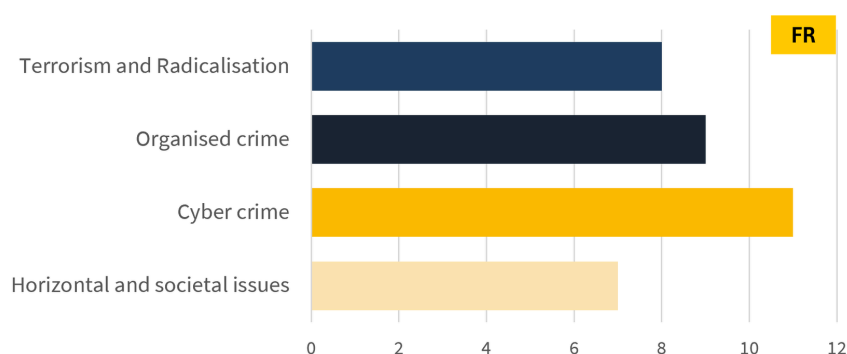
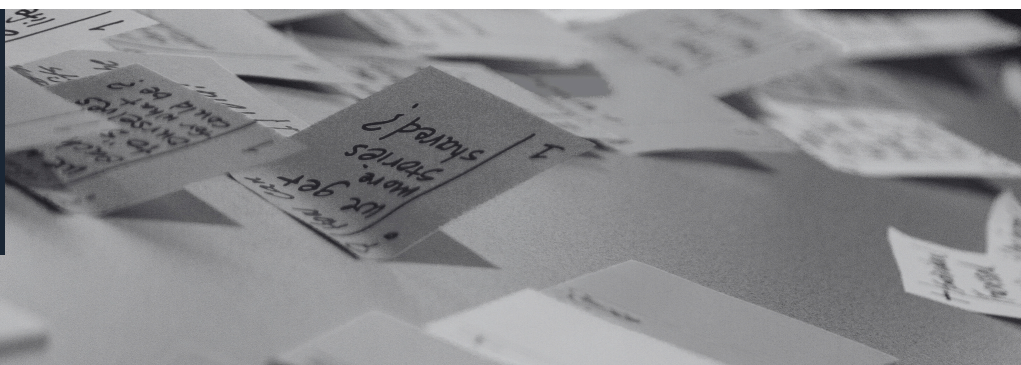


Figure 8: Policy Project Coverage according to projects with French participation



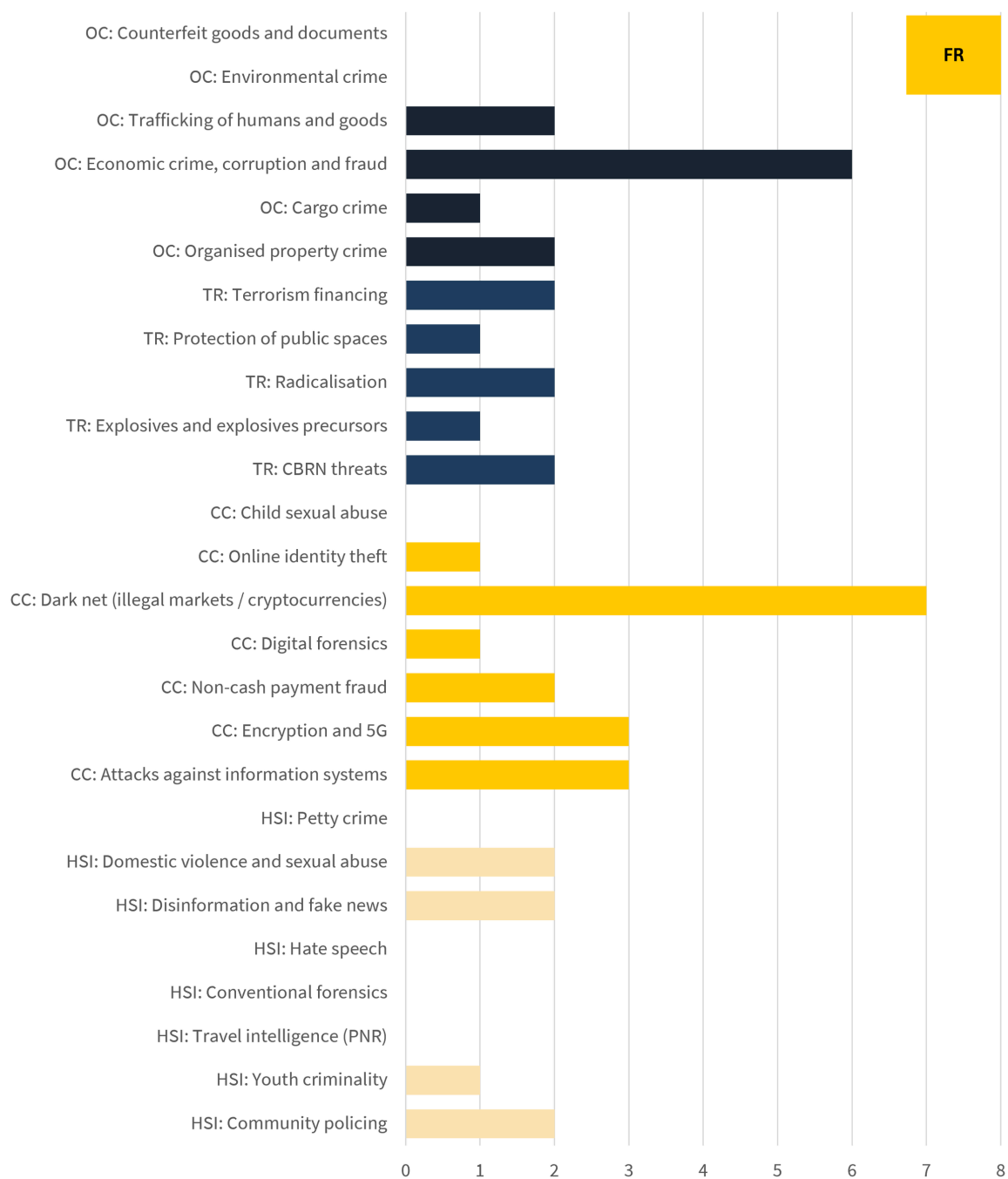


Figure 9: L3 Policy Coverage according to projects with French participation



Figure 10: Functions coverage according to projects with French participation

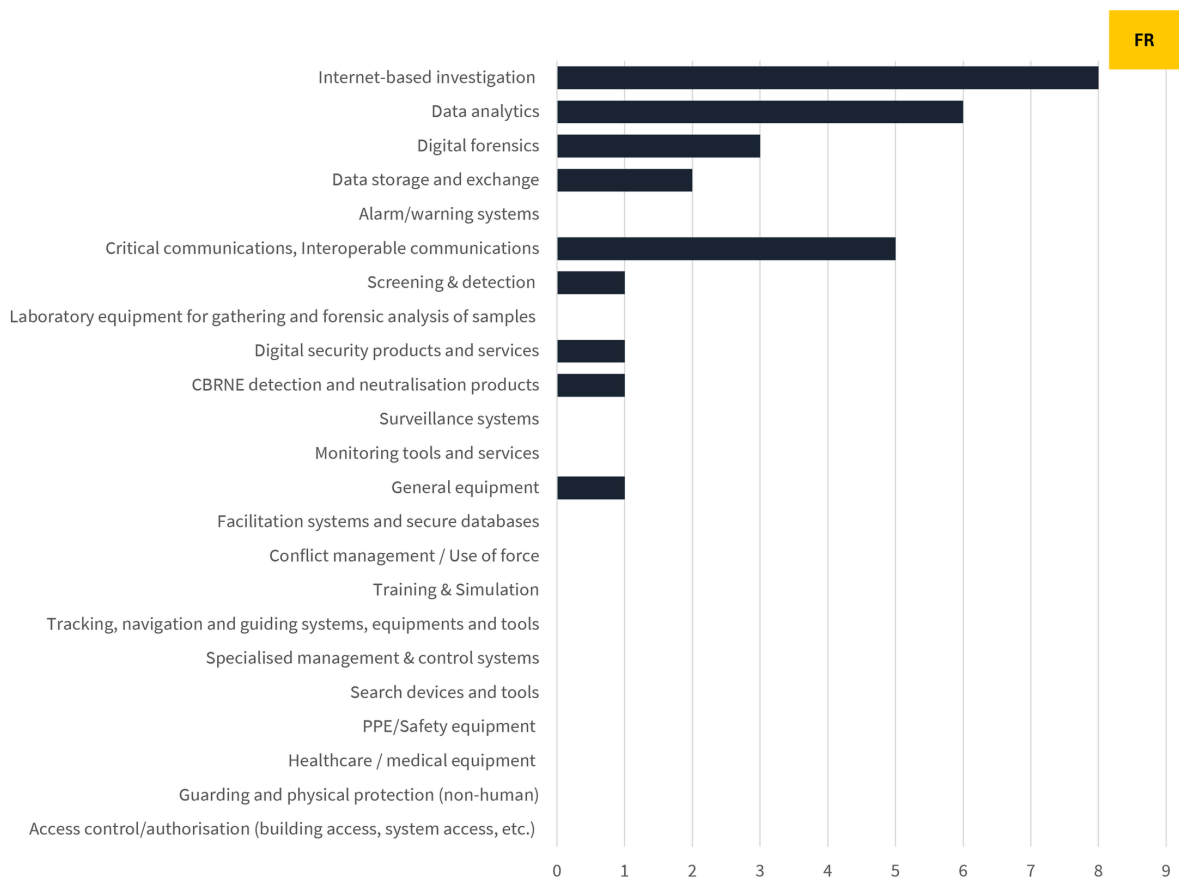


Figure 11: Technology coverage according to projects with French participation

Final Remarks

France plays a prominent role in European security research, supported by strong participation in **Horizon Europe FCT** projects and a significant level of **EU** funding. French organisations are actively involved across collaborative security initiatives and contribute substantially to operationally oriented research and innovation activities.

Within the policy landscape, French stakeholders demonstrate particularly strong engagement in **Cybercrime**-related topics, especially **Digital Investigations**, **Dark Web** activities, **Cryptocurrencies**, and **Digital Forensics**. **Counterterrorism**, **Radicalisation Prevention**, and the **Protection of Public Spaces** also constitute major areas of activity, alongside contributions addressing **Organised Crime**, **Trafficking**, **Fraud**, and **Corruption**. This broad engagement reflects the diversity of France's security ecosystem and the strategic importance of both digital and operational security challenges at national and European levels.

From a functional perspective, French participation is especially concentrated in **Mobility and Deployability**, **Training and Exercises**, and **Data and Intelligence Gathering and Exploitation**. Significant activity is also visible in **Investigation and Forensics**, **Monitoring and Surveillance**, and **Operational Equipment**. These trends reflect a security model strongly connected to field operations and crisis response, supported by the active involvement of end users such as the **Gendarmerie Nationale** and other public security actors.

In the technological domain, France demonstrates strong capabilities in **Operational Security Technologies**, **Communication Systems**, **Training and Simulation Environments**, **Monitoring Tools**, and **Protective Equipment**. **Digital Technologies**, including **Artificial Intelligence**, **Cybersecurity**, and **Data Analytics**, also play a central role, particularly in supporting **Cyber Investigations** and intelligence-led security operations. Overall, French participation reflects a balanced combination of technological innovation and operational applicability.

French organisations account for a substantial share of **Horizon Europe FCT** participation and EU contributions. Although participation remains selective, French proposals show a success rate slightly above the EU average, confirming the competitiveness and quality of national stakeholders within European security research programmes. The participation model is characterised by strong institutional involvement, robust research capacity, and close interaction between public authorities, research organisations, academia, and industry. Collectively, these strengths support a mature and strategically aligned security innovation ecosystem capable of addressing evolving threats while contributing to European cooperation, operational preparedness, and the development of effective security capabilities.

For more information and guidance regarding French participation in CL3 and possible collaboration opportunities, please visit the National Contact Points Portal: <https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/> and search for the French NCPs.

A note on data sources

The data used to compile this report is from the following sources

- **ENACT Stakeholder Directory**, where relevant organisations participating in **Horizon Europe**, **Horizon 2020** or relevant security events have been compiled and categorised according to the **EU Civil Security Market Taxonomy** for policy levels two and three, functions and technology.
- **ENACT Project Directory**, where relevant projects have been compiled and categorised according to the **EU Civil Security Market Taxonomy** for policy levels two and three, functions and technology.
- The **Horizon Dashboard** for R&I Projects and R&I Proposals.³

An explorable version of the **ENACT Stakeholders Directory** is available on the **ENACT** website.⁴

³ Horizon Dashboard - <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard>

⁴ ENACT Stakeholders Map - <https://enact-eu.net/enact-fct-stakeholder-map/>



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