

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



FOREWORD

IN 2023, EDA MANAGED 94 COLLABORATIVE CAPABILITY AND RESEARCH PROJECTS WORTH €664 MILLION

By Jiří Šedivý,
Chief Executive

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to devastate the country and threaten the European Union. High intensity, state-to-state war is testing the EU's capacity to defend itself and its values, while Ukraine's emergence as an independent, prosperous country is critical for the broader European security order. The EU and notably the European Defence Agency are accelerating efforts in support of Ukraine, and for the defence of Europe. While EU defence cooperation has suffered from ambiguous assumptions in the past, the war in Ukraine has brought new momentum to our common endeavour.

In 2023, EDA welcomed Denmark as a full member. EDA also deepened ties with the United States, signing an Administrative Arrangement to allow formal dialogue on issues including supply chains, Military Mobility, standardisation and the impact of climate change in defence. EDA handed over its long-running helicopter training programmes to a dedicated centre in Portugal, marking an end to one of the Agency's most successful ventures in its 20-year history.

As the war in Ukraine has depleted Member States' armaments stockpiles and fuelled global demand for weapons and equipment, EDA stepped up in 2023 with its two-year fast-track procedure for the joint procurement of 155mm artillery ammunition. In record time, EDA established the project arrangement that was signed by all EU Member States and Norway. Seven EU Member States placed orders with European industry through the scheme, with more expected to join in 2024.

Member States agreed on the 2023 Capability Development Priorities. These are relevant in the new strategic context, reflecting lessons observed from the war in Ukraine and preparing the Union for future operational challenges – namely higher intensity operations and missions.

EDA has also sought to increase cooperation in strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base. We need a robust and resilient defence industry that can produce the weapons and capabilities we need now and in the future.

At present we concentrate on 'quantity', i.e. supporting Ukraine, replenishing Member States' stocks and increasing the readiness of their forces. At the same time, we must not neglect the imperative of being prepared for future challenges. Member States will have to develop the most innovative, high-end capabilities. In that respect, EDA's Hub for Defence Innovation (HEDI) is the indispensable enabler.

We at EDA have also strived to guide the Permanent Structured Cooperation, as part of the PESCO secretariat, in support of participating Member States. We have played our part in the European Defence Fund, both as observers to the elaboration of EDF Work Programmes and as project managers for projects entrusted by the European Commission to EDA.

Overall, in 2023, the Agency managed around 94 cooperative ad-hoc projects and programmes in capability development, training, and joint procurement, as well as Research and Technology (R&T) and innovation, with a total estimated value in the range of €664 million.

2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the European Defence Agency. Over two decades, we have helped our armed forces to cooperate and invest better together. We continue to anticipate tomorrow's defence needs. EDA's added value for EU defence is sharply increasing.



We need a robust and resilient defence industry that can produce the weapons and capabilities we need now and in the future."

Jiří Šedivý,
Chief Executive

FROM PLANNING TO PRIORITIES

EDA: WHERE EU MEMBER STATES MEET TO SET DEFENCE PRIORITIES

EDA supports its Member States in improving their defence capabilities through European cooperation, making it possible for those Ministries of Defence wishing to engage in collaborative capability projects.

In 2023, the Agency supported Member States' capability planning through its own prioritisation framework, which is built around the revised Capability Development Plan (CDP), the Overarching Research Strategic Agenda (OSRA) and the Key Strategic Activities (KSA):

- In 2023, a significant part of EDA's work, together with the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) and European Union Military Committee (EUMC), was devoted to the revision of the Capability Development Plan (CDP), which led to 22 EU Capability Development Priorities, approved in November 2023 by Ministers of Defence at the EDA Steering Board. These priorities are the reference point for any EU initiative contributing to prepare, develop and acquire Member States defence capabilities.
- In 2023, the EDA's Capability Technology Groups, known as CapTechs, continued to implement technology roadmaps with concrete project ideas. The roadmaps support Member States in identifying common defence research objectives and providing input into projects with EDA and other EU funding.
- In 2023, EDA continued to assess defence industrial and technological capacities within the EU to deliver the required capabilities. Within the 2022-2023 KSA annual cycle, EDA's Steering Board approved further capability and research areas to be analysed from an industrial capacity perspective. The Agency's work on KSA is part of the EU's broader effort to address gaps and shortages within the EDTIB. The findings of the KSA reports continue to inform investment decisions both at national and EU level and contribute to the EU defence review process. A start to update OSRA's methodology was also made.





FROM PRIORITIES TO PROJECTS

THE EU'S DEFENCE REVIEW, CARD: THE THIRD CYCLE BEGINS

In 2023, EDA began the third cycle of the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD). Together with the EU Military Staff (EUMS) and EU Member States, EDA began the process of collecting data and identifying concrete opportunities for Member States to engage in cooperative projects for capability development, research and technology.

As Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine sharply lifts European investment in defence, CARD focuses on the objectives set by the EU's Strategic Compass and considers EDA's scoping paper on EU Defence Investment Gaps, as well as the revised capability priorities. To support Member States in addressing collaboratively current and future capability needs, CARD is reviewing Member States' individual plans in the context of EU agreed priorities to analyse how well

investments and spending are made. Together with the revised Capability Development Priorities, Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF), CARD is set to boost collaborative defence capability planning, development, and procurement.

CARD has matured and has become more robust over time. The EU defence review raises awareness and informs Member States of the benefits of working together.



CARD focuses on presenting two significant elements of reference. Firstly, it is a 'State of the Union' in terms of the EU defence landscape. Secondly, it shows the collaborative opportunities with the potential to become projects of common interest, which will be taken forward in different frameworks, including under PESCO, with the support of EU financial tools."

Elias Hadjikoumis,
Project Officer for External Support and Funds,
Coordinated Annual Review on Defence



With the procurement of 155 mm ammunition, EDA responded to an urgent need from the Member States by ensuring security of supply while also fostering cross-border competition."

Gianluca Serra,

Head of Procurement and Deputy Director,
Corporate Services

JOINT PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION

In 2023, all EU Member States and Norway signed the European Defence Agency project arrangement for the collaborative procurement of ammunition. The project opened the way for EU Member States and Norway to proceed along two paths: a two-year, fast-track procedure for 155mm artillery rounds and a seven-year project to acquire multiple ammunition types.

In full respect of sovereign national decisions and without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of any EU Member States, the project may be used to replenish Member States' national stockpiles and aid Ukraine.

Seven EU Member States placed orders with European industry through EDA's fast-track joint procurement scheme for 155mm ammunition. EDA's fast-track for 155mm ammunition covers all-up-rounds and elements thereof (fuses, projectiles, charges, primer) for four different, modern firing platforms designed and produced in Europe (France's Caesar, Poland's Krab, Germany's Panzerhaubitze 2000 and Slovakia's Zuzana) and the most used by the Ukrainian armed forces.



CBRN AND SOLDIER EQUIPMENT PROJECTS

Aside from ammunition, several EU Member States signed the EDA project arrangements for the collaborative procurement of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) equipment, and for soldier equipment.

The signing of the two project arrangements in July 2023 – by eight EU states for both CBRN and again for soldier equipment – allowed them to come into effect. They have laid the basis for Member States to buy together CBRN equipment such as masks, filters and suits, and also to jointly purchase soldier equipment such as helmets and ballistic vests.

EDA's project arrangements, and Member States' interest, send an important signal to industry about the European Union's commitment to meeting critical military needs. Following competitive tendering, companies or consortia will be able to bid for contracts.



Member States recognise the added value of entrusting EDA with the indirect management of EDF projects, stressing the importance of our established legal and contractual framework for the co-funded part of development projects, as well as our expertise in managing projects."

Cristina Di Prima,
Project Officer EU-funded Defence Actions

SUPPORTING THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

In 2023, the Agency continued its support to the European Defence Fund (EDF). EDF's aim is to reinforce the competitiveness of the European defence industry through financial support to defence research and development within the EU's long-term common budget. As an observer in the EDF Programme Committee, EDA shared its views and expertise with Member States and the European Commission, for example on the alignment of EDF activities with the CDP priorities, CARD and OSRA. EDA also supported the European Commission in the harmonisation of the call texts of the EDF Work Programme 2024.

Two projects from the 2021 EDF calls for proposals were entrusted to the Agency for 'indirect management' through a Contribution Agreement between the European Commission and the European Defence Agency signed in 2022. They both kicked off in 2023:

- Advanced Radar Technology in eUROpe (ARTURO)
- Research in eco-designed ballistic systems for durable lightweight protections against current and new threats in platform and personal applications (ECOBALLIFE).

Three projects funded under EDF 2022 calls were handed to the Agency for 'indirect management' through a Contribution Agreement between the European Commission and the European Defence Agency signed in 2023:

- Innovation Technology for Radar System Applications (TYRESIAS)
- European Command and Control Systems (EC2)
- Smart Multifunction Textiles for Integrated Soldier Systems (ARMETISS)



PERMANENT STRUCTURED COOPERATION (PESCO): STRATEGIC SUPPORT

In 2023, PESCO marked six years since its launch. Since the establishment of PESCO, EDA's involvement has evolved from modest administrative roles to include expert support and the establishment of projects at the Agency with EDA serving as project manager.

EDA agreed to provide support to the implementation of four PESCO projects in 2023:

- Next Generation Small RPAS (NGSR)
- Essential Elements of European Escort (4E)
- Future Medium-size Tactical Cargo (FMTC)
- Strategic Air Transport for Outsized Cargo (SATOC)
- Next Generation Small RPAS (NGSR)
- Essential Elements of European Escort (4E)
- 'Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear Surveillance as Service' (CBRN SaaS)
- 'Deployable Modular Underwater Intervention Capability Package' (DIVEPACK)
- 'European Patrol Corvette' (EPC)
- 'Cyber and Information Domain Coordination Centre' (CIDCC)

Since PESCO was established in December 2017, EDA has supported 15 projects. Nine are still being supported, six of which are implemented as EDA Ad Hoc Category B (opt-in) projects, with full project management and administrative support:

EDA, as part of the PESCO secretariat, completed the annual assessment of updated National Implementation Plans (NIPs) submitted by Member States. Here, the Member States outline how they intend to meet PESCO's 20 more binding commitments. In 2023, participating Member States stepped up their efforts towards the fulfilment of the more binding commitments. But the overall progress is still not sufficient to fulfil the commitments by 2025. The PESCO Strategic Review, launched in November 2023, provides an opportunity to shape PESCO's development further beyond 2025.

FROM LAUNCHING PROJECTS TO MANAGING THEM

In 2023, EDA supported an overall portfolio of 94 cooperative projects and programmes (53 of which are related to research and technology, and 34 to capability development), with a total value of €664 million.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) INTEGRATION

Throughout 2023, EDA supported efforts for the integration of Remotely Piloted Air Systems (RPAS) into European airspace.

Following the completion of the 'Safe Autonomous Flight Termination' (SAFETERM) project in 2022 – where a safe flight termination landing of a RPAS was facilitated using Artificial Intelligence to select the best area for the flight termination – EDA continued its work to develop standards for the Control and Monitoring Unit (ground control station/remote pilot station) of the RPAS with EUROCAE and Airbus Defence and Space.

For the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operated in the 'specific' category of operations, EDA further developed the Military UAS Specific Risk Assessment (MUSRA) tool to facilitate the operations from a risk-based perspective. The online tool came only for Member States to test and evaluate in 2023. EDA is pioneering the work in Specific UAS Risk Assessment, providing Member States with the necessary tools for shifter and harmonised operational approvals.

A new follow-on project was launched in 2023, building on the first cross-border validation flight of a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) RPAS, which took place between France and Spain in 2021. This new project

aims to support three cross-border MALE flights over Germany and the Netherlands in 2024.

Furthermore, EDA supported the integration of all types of UAS in the airspace by promoting military needs and requirements in this context. The Agency carried out work to mitigate the implications of the growing number of small UAS flights on military activities. In this context, EDA has launched in 2023 a new add-on to an ongoing study researching the European **'U-Space'**, which aims at the possible roles of the Military in U-Space.

Extending its reach beyond its walls, the EDA UAS team continued to contribute to the implementation of the European Commission Drone Strategy 2.0, the drafting of the UAS EDF calls, collaborating with EUROCONTROL on UAS projects and activities, as well as actively collaborating with NATO on UAS matters.

EUROPEAN STRATEGIC TANKER CAPABILITY (MMF)

The multinational fleet of Airbus A330 tanker and transport aircraft, which was developed with support from EDA, was cleared for operations worldwide in 2023. First proposed at a NATO summit in 2012, the initiative for a Multinational Multi Role Tanker Transport Fleet (MMF) was established by EDA along with the Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation and the NATO Support and Procurement Agency.

Now with six participating countries, the fleet performs air-to-air refuelling of fighter jets, can carry out medical evacuations and also transport cargo and passengers. MMF reached Initial Operational



The future of airspace belongs to those who can safely and securely integrate UAS. Reliable UAS technology is no longer a choice, it's a defence imperative."

Christophe Vivier,
Head of EDA's Single European Sky Unit



Capability on March 23 2023 in a ceremony attended by EDA Chief Executive Jiří Šedivý and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, as well as the ministers and senior officials of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Norway, Germany, Czechia, and the European Commission.

COUNTERING IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (C-IED)

In 2023, the largest European exercise to combat improvised explosive devices (IEDs) - known as Bison Counter 2023 - took place in Spain in November 2023 over 14 days. BC23 was conducted under 'Bison Counter Exercises' – an EDA project that integrates the 'Joint Deployable Exploitation and Analysis Laboratory' (JDEAL), the 'European Center for Manual Neutralisation Capabilities' (ECMAN) and the 'Military Search Capability Building' (MSCB).

The exercise, hosted by the Spanish Armed Forces, mobilised more than 1,000 personnel from 16 countries, either actively in different trainings or as observers. More than 270 scenarios were conducted between the two exercise sites. The objective of the BC23 exercise was to train the full spectrum of the Counter-IED concept in a multi-level domain from tactical to operational. The exercise also took a multi-domain approach with land and maritime deployments across two locations, Cartagena and Zaragoza, including: Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD); Military Working Dogs (K9); and Underwater Work (UW).

EDA's Member States aim to continue Bison Counter exercises. In tandem, the JDEAL, ECMAN and MSCB projects delivered more than 20 multinational specialist training courses in the different C-IED enabler capabilities in 2023.

PERSONNEL RECOVERY

Military personnel carry the risk of being captured or maltreated by enemy forces in a hostile environment. Ensuring their swift and safe recovery encompasses diplomatic, civil and military coordination. Under the EDA umbrella, the 'Joint Personnel Recovery Education and Training Courses' (JPR-ETC) project has provided opportunities to all participating Member States to train their military staff as specialists in personnel recovery since 2020 and has sought an extension until 2028. After EDA's project 'Tactical Personnel Recovery Mission Simulator' (TPRMS) reached its Full Operational Capability (FOC) in 2022, a follow-on project TPRMS pilot course started, paving the way for the development of a common European approach to conducting personnel recovery training by simulation.

CBRN DEFENCE

As part of efforts to increase the safety of European armed forces and the wider population, the EU is developing a sensor network that can produce a recognised picture of a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threat over a specific area.

EDA's 'Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear Surveillance as Service' (CBRN SaaS) project has completed the prototyping phase and begun testing. The aim of this project, which was launched as a PESCO project but then handed over to EDA for practical implementation, is to develop a rapidly deployable, round-the-clock, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear reconnaissance and surveillance capability.

In the meantime, this project has been synchronised with another project 'Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear Reconnaissance Surveillance System', funded by the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP). EDA is the project manager. Both projects will end with a final report in mid-2024.

ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

Additive Manufacturing technologies have the potential to support logistics to deployed forces in remote or hostile environments. In 2023, EDA moved forward with participating Member States who hope to make additive manufacturing a military capability enabler, with a three-fold approach.

Firstly, the new Category B (opt-in) project aims to develop common standards and implement additive manufacturing as a direct support to military capabilities. Secondly, the Agency organised a five-day capability workshop with participants from the armed forces, industry, and academia to define military additive manufacturing use cases and identify suitable technologies. Thirdly, EDA supported the 2nd European Military Additive Manufacturing Symposium in October 2023.

MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

MARSUR, the maritime surveillance information exchange system crafted by EDA. Launched in 2005 as a network for sharing open-source maritime information, MARSUR has since matured into a multi-faceted information exchange platform. The multinational initiative resulting from this effort now encompasses 22 European navies. Out of this pool, under the EDA framework, 16 EU navies are developing



The MARSUR initiative born in EDA is an excellent example of what the Agency framework can bring in terms of capability development. It started simply as an idea, which developed into a concept to later become a capability. The MARSUR community refers to it as 'the Ferrari in the garage'. It is high time to drive it at full speed."

Gianluigi Lanzalaco,
Project Officer MARSUR

a capability for the automatic exchange of maritime surveillance information and decision-making support. Now in its third stage of development, which is known as MARSUR III, the project is upgrading its technology and capabilities. That will include the exchange of classified information in the coming years.

The EDA Steering Board agreed in April 2023 to establish a Category A programme 'Comprehensive Approach to Situational Awareness for the Maritime Spaces of Europe' (CASAMSE) for the close coordination and development of future projects and initiatives in the field of Maritime Situational Awareness. The programme is expected to kick off in 2024.

The **MARSUR network and technology** are utilised in support of the **Coordinated Maritime Presences** (CMP) concept in the Gulf of Guinea off the coast of West Africa, launched in January 2021, to tackle piracy and criminal activity at sea. The MARSUR network has facilitated the exchange of operational information between the CMP contributing members, and the Maritime Area of Interest Coordination Cell (MAICC) located in EUMS. EDA provides contractual support to EUMS for the establishment of a permanent EU MARSUR Node in EUMS premises. This node was established in June 2023.

EUROPEAN PATROL CORVETTE

The European Patrol Corvette, a new class of military ship, is one of the most ambitious PESCO projects. EDA provided support during the initial phase of this commitment to the five nations involved, namely France, Italy, Greece, Romania and Spain.

The maritime community involved in this project benefited from the expertise and support of EDA to identify and harmonise operational requirements, paving the way for an efficient project management.

This initial phase proved the quality of the forum provided by EDA in support of collaborative endeavours, namely sticking to the planned schedule and budget with a first prototype expected in 2027, and, in addition, bringing an enhanced visibility. That has led to Ireland and Germany joining Portugal as



observers. In October 2023, the four companies involved in the European Patrol Corvette project signed to move ahead with the first phase of the project – the Common Staff Requirements – maximising collaboration in the European shipbuilding industry.

SPACE

The Defence in Space Forum has been in place since 2022 and has held several meetings with a view to identifying the shortfalls, promoting collaborative opportunities, formulating defence perspectives and following-up the implementation of the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence.

In governmental satellite communications (GOVSATCOM), the EDA 'GOVSATCOM Pooling and Sharing Demonstration' project continued to support contributing members in 2023.

As regards 'Space-Based Earth Observation' (SBEO), EDA delivered its analysis on persistent surveillance capabilities through a constellation of small satellites and on improving interoperability, data sharing and data collection of Member States' space-based systems through a multi-mission ground segment. Results of these two studies have been also shared with the European Commission to support the activities of Earth Observation Governmental Service and the European Defence Fund's call 'Space based Persistent ISR for Defence and Europe Reinforcement' (SPIDER).

EDA also continued the work on artificial intelligence (AI) tools in imagery intelligence with the MATRIX project, in a cooperative endeavour with the European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen). This follow-up endeavour is meant to deliver an assessment of the technical and operational feasibility of an AI-Hub at the EU level and its potential role as a central node for developing, integrating, and testing advanced technologies at the beginning of 2025. In the context of 'Position, Navigation and Timing' (PNT), EDA continued its work on the development of a planning support tool for 'Navigation Warfare' (GEONAV) operations.

CYBER DEFENCE: EDA SUPPORTS NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS

In 2023, two more countries joined the new EDA project for the 'Military Computer Emergency Response Team Operational Network' (MICNET). The establishment of this operational network of military national response teams, known as milCERTs, is a substantial step towards enhancing the level of cooperation in the cyber domain at EU level.

Twenty countries are now part of the EDA initiative, which aims to foster the exchange of information at a time when computer networks are increasingly contested and the number of cyber-attacks against the EU and its Member States continues to grow. MICNET will be managed by EDA.

EDA took forward its activities in support of information-sharing between the military Computer Emergency Response Teams (milCERT). To this end, EDA conducted the third "milCERT Interoperability Conference" in Madrid in October with more than 200 participants, to enhance cooperation and share knowledge through technical and operational tracks.

EDA hosted the EU Cyber Commanders Conference (CyberCO) organised by France in the first semester of 2023. The CyberCO of the second semester was organised by Spain.

EDA also maintained many other cyber defence-related activities, including an Industry Day on the "Practical use of Artificial Intelligence for Cyber Defence in military operations", but also evolving the Cyber Defence Enterprise Architecture and the 'Cyber Ranges Federation'. EDA is developing a new framework for 'Cyber Defence Exercises' (CyDef-X). The aim is to develop regular, as well as annual, cyber exercises for EDA's members.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

In December 2023, EDA hosted the closing session of the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) 'European Command and Control System from strategic to tactical level' (ESC2) project with the participation of Member States, stakeholders and industry. A new project 'European Command and Control System' (EC2) will link up with the ESC2 to further develop the system by creating, within two years, a software prototype ready for prompt implementation in the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC).

In June 2023, a working group with interested Member States was established at EDA to analyse the impact of Data Centric Security and Zero Trust technologies for EU defence capabilities. Separately, EDA, jointly with the European Union Satellite Centre (SatCen), promoted the use of, and supported, the 'Geospatial Information Hub' (GeohuB), to ease decision-making at the EU Operational Headquarters (OHQ). GeohuB kicked-off its phase five in October 2023 in view of upgrading GeohuB's functionalities in response to new user needs.

ANTICIPATING TOMORROW'S DEFENCE NEEDS

CAPABILITY TECHNOLOGY GROUPS (CAPTECHS)

Research & Technology (R&T) continues to be one of the Agency's top priorities. At the end of 2023, 48 new R&T projects were under negotiation at EDA with a value of €260 million. Added to EDA's existing R&T portfolio of 53 ad hoc R&T projects, the total number of projects will have an overall value of €518 million. EDA's 15 specialised Capability Technology Groups (CapTechs) are composed of national experts, industry, academia and research and technology organisations. They seek to push developing technology out of the laboratory and into military hardware, in support of EU defence capability goals.

Here are the highlights of 2023:

- CapTech Aerial Systems (Air) aids the development of the air-domain Capability Development Priorities in areas such as: Air combat platforms and weapons; Airborne Command and Information Capabilities; and Air Transport and Military Mobility. In 2023, a new project on Enhanced RPAS Autonomy (ERA2.1) was launched. Furthermore, three new projects with a total value of €15 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Ground Systems (Land) facilitates the development of future land capabilities. During 2023, six new projects were launched, including 'Combat Unmanned Ground Systems' (CUGS). CUGS brings together nine Member States and 28 European industry partners. With a €35.5 million budget and running for 36 months, CUGS aims to define, design and develop a set of functional modules which will be mounted onto existing platforms. The final phase of the project will test full demonstrators for highly autonomous combat unmanned ground systems. In addition, there were 15 projects with a total value of €45 million under preparation.
- CapTech Naval Systems (Maritime) develops and improves naval technologies for European Navies, including manned and unmanned platforms as well as the integration of different weapon, energy and other systems, as well as sensors. In 2023, two new projects developing next generation of modular lightweight minesweeping systems (MLM-NG), and thin line array technologies (ETLAT II) were launched. Four more new projects with a total value of €13 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Missiles and Munitions kicked off a new project in 2023, called RECBALL, to develop models to improve interior ballistic calculation methods. In addition, seven new projects with a total value of €25 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Communication Information Systems launched a new project in 2023 exploring long-range communications technologies, called LORACO. Two additional projects with a total value of €12 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Cyber Research & Technology develops broad research activities within the cyber domain, from AI to intelligence and security aspects. In 2023, a new project developing a real-time, multi-domain protection platform (REMUDO) was launched with CapTech Space.
- CapTech Simulation Technologies works on the exploitation of advanced computing and simulation technologies. In 2023, four new projects with a total value of €12 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Space contributes with R&T activities to develop future defence space capabilities. In 2023, a new project was launched to address the use of AI for the development of autonomous, space-based situational awareness. Four new projects with a total value of €33 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Guidance, Navigation & Control launched a new project in 2023 on autonomous, reconfigurable swarms of unmanned vehicles (ACHILLES). Three new projects with a total value of €11 million were under preparation.

- CapTech Radio Frequency Sensor Technologies seeks to improve Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) capabilities. Two new projects with a total value of approximately €10.5 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Electro Optical Sensors Technologies develops R&T activities on Electro-Optical passive and active sensors and image processing and enhancement, specifically to improve ISTAR. In 2023, together with CapTech Technologies, Components and Modules, a new project was launched to address the development of a hyperspectral imaging platform. In addition, two new projects with a total value of €15.5 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Technologies, Components and Modules (TCM) works on technologies that constitute essential building blocks for many defence applications, as well as ensuring technology availability, access and continued development for the European defence community. Furthermore, electronics components are often associated to potential critical dependencies. Three projects with a total value of €15 million were under preparation.
- CapTech Materials and Structures develops technologies and enablers for capabilities requiring advanced lightweight materials. In 2023, the 'Innovative materials for Capability-driven Research for Outstanding European defence' (ICARO) programme took off. ICARO contains nine integrated projects to be developed in several phases along 10 years. In 2023, three ICARO-integrated projects with a total value of €32 million were under preparation.
- CapTech CBRN and Human Factors supports the strengthening of European armed forces' capability to safely operate in an environment contaminated by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials and agents. The CapTech also contributes to crisis response operations that are civilian-led, if needed. In 2023, a project addressing further enhancement of the European Biodefence Laboratory Network (EBLN II) was launched.
- CapTech Energy & Environment develops R&T activities in response to defence capability needs consistent with the technological scope of energy and environment, including climate change related challenges.

EMERGING DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES (EDTS)

Emerging Disruptive Technologies (EDTs) are expected to have an increasingly disruptive impact on defence and revolutionise future military capabilities and operations. EDA developed a 'Capability-Driven Emerging Disruptive Technologies Action Plan' to monitor EDTs and identify collaborative opportunities. In September 2023, EDA organised an EDT workshop for participating Member States with panels bringing together experts from EDA, the EUMS, and the European Commission. The topics discussed were: AI for data management; autonomous systems for teaming and swarming; and quantum technologies for secure communications. EDA is also involved in a number of EDT projects to support military advancements in the EU, for instance 'Advanced Networking with Quantum communications with Operational Relevance' (ANQUOR) that explores the military relevance of quantum communications technology; and CUGS.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

In 2023, EDA continued the implementation of the steps foreseen in the 'EDA Artificial Intelligence Action Plan'. A workshop for trustworthiness and standardisation for AI in defence was hosted by EDA in September 2023. Almost 50 proposals were presented during the workshop and more than 200 participants attended the three-day event. CapTechs kept up development on collaborative AI-based, ad hoc projects to stimulate the application of AI in future defence activities.

AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS (AS)

In military context, autonomous systems provide operational benefits across a broad range of missions, from intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics missions to combat operations. Warfare with autonomous capabilities can be very different in terms of purpose and technical characteristics in the multi-domain battlefield of the future.

In 2023, EDA finalised the preparation of the EDA 'Action Plan on Autonomous Systems' (APAS). This action plan will define a strategy for developing the technology to address other challenges related to the development and deployment of AS for military operations.

DEFENCE INNOVATION

EDA operates its 'Hub for EU Defence Innovation' (HEDI), which made progress in 2023.

The second edition of the European Defence Innovation Days (EDID) was held in Brussels on 31 May and 1 June under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency of the EU Council. More than 500 participants benefited from speeches, panel discussions, technical talks, and an exhibition area with 52 stands. The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect start-ups and SMEs with representatives from Member States, Research and Technology Organisations and large industries, contributing to the development of cross-borders supply chains.

The first proof of concept was launched in 2023 in the space domain, awarding two contracts for fast-paced projects deep-diving into ground-breaking satellite concepts uniquely for military applications.

HEDI also maintains a 'European Defence Innovation Network'. The governmental network has convened six times gathering more than 40 representatives across 20 member states, sharing insights gleaned from national defence innovation ecosystems and aiming at the creation of a lingua franca on defence innovation across Europe. Two workshops were organised in June and August on the topic of defence innovation on the basis of dual-use technologies in which the representatives worked to identify opportunities for multinational innovation projects focused on experimentation with high Technology Readiness Level (TRL), dual-use technologies.

HEDI has created a solid connection with the European Defence Innovation Scheme of the European Commission ensuring that the exchanges between Member States on defence innovation are included in the activities launched by EUDIS.



The Hub for EU Defence Innovation has demonstrated in 2023 its crucial role in facilitating cooperation and streamlining the development and adoption of innovations across EU member states. Together, we are ensuring that Europe remains at the forefront of military innovation and prepared to meet emerging threats."

Federica Valente,
Research, Technology and Innovation Coordinator



EDA DEFENCE INNOVATION PRIZE

Since 2018, the Defence Innovation Prize has been rewarding companies and research entities that come up with technologies, products, processes or services applicable to the defence domain. The prize promotes defence innovation in Europe and provides civilian industries, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), research organisations and universities with an opportunity to showcase their know-how.

In 2023, the prize focused on two categories:

- Technologies for situational awareness Innovative solutions and technologies for immersive training, battlefield situational awareness and other defence applications.
- Technologies for communication and information systems Innovative solutions and technologies for implementing Zero Trust Architecture in tactical defence communication and information systems.

The award for Technologies for situational awareness goes to the Royal Netherlands Aerospace Centre, and its concept 'Tactical Environment Model for Battlefield Awareness (TEMBA)'. The award for Technologies for communication and information systems goes to Cyber Noesis, and its concept paper for 'AI-assisted dynamic risk management for context-aware access control in Zero Trust Architecture'.

EU-FUNDED DEFENCE RESEARCH

In 2023, EDA continued indirect management of the 'Preparatory Action on Defence Research' (PADR). In 2023, the Agency executed the implementation of nine projects: EXCEED, TALOS, ARTUS, OPTIMISE, PILUM, QUANTAQUEST, AIDED, INTERACT, and CROWN.

Five of these projects were completed, having achieved their objectives:

TALOS developed a compact laser technology for neutralisation of agile targets, while significantly minimising collateral damage. The main results obtained addressed the concept of operations, target vulnerability, laser developments at 2 μm (micrometres), laser combining technology, ethics and safety, and roadmap for European Laser Directed Energy Weapon systems.

ARTUS developed a demonstrator for a small swarm of intelligent and autonomously operating vehicles to support infantry platoons during their missions.

OPTIMISE developed five different technologies (magneto-inertial IMU, Signals of Opportunity positioning system, SAR-based navigation, atomic clock and IMU sensors, and stellar navigation system), to provide alternative positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) systems for military navigation when Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) are disrupted.

INTERACT analysed current norms and standards for Unmanned Vehicles (UxVs) to increase interoperability among different systems and proposed four main recommendations: (i) to use US standard on Sensor Open System Architecture, (ii) to use and adapt STANAG 4586 for payload C2, (iii) to use well-known data link standards, and (iv) to apply NAF V4 views for an architecture development.

PILUM developed and demonstrated a disruptive concept of an electromagnetic railgun withstanding extreme heat and high-speed friction of shooting a hypersonic projectile capable of reaching up to MACH6.

HELPING OUR MILITARIES WORK AND TRAIN TOGETHER

EDA SATCOM: UNIFYING FORCES, ENHANCING PREPAREDNESS, COLLABORATION AND TRAINING

SATCOM is a cornerstone of enhanced operational effectiveness. Its pivotal role in command, control, communications, and intelligence functions remains unparalleled, offering crucial support to military operations."

Heinrich Krispler,

Project Officer Governmental Satellite Communications and Support to EU Operations

EU SATCOM MARKET

EDA's EU SatCom Market offers contributing members access to commercially available SatCom and Communication and Information Systems (CIS) services. With simplified processes and seamless access, a diverse range of SATCOM and CIS services are readily deployable, including the provision of an EU-Restricted Network tailored for the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) Headquarters and all EU training missions conducted in the field. This robust infrastructure not only enhances command and control functionalities but also supports essential activities such as training, exercises, and operations.

Since its inception in 2012, the EU SATCOM market project has grown to support 36 contributing members, spanning across EU missions and operations, EU organisations, and institutions. Its primary objective remains bringing together all demands for commercial SatCom services. Notably, in 2023, order requests surged, prompting the EDA to expand its support beyond service provision to include demonstrations for all contributing members.

To further bolster its capabilities, EDA initiated a tender process in 2023 to award a new SATCOM framework joint procurement contract, aimed at providing enhanced services for the next four years, with special provisions to support Ukraine. The EU SATCOM market project is EDA's largest joint procurement initiative, underscoring its significance in fostering collaboration and efficiency in European defence.

EDA TRANSFERS HELICOPTER PROGRAMMES TO NEW CENTRE IN PORTUGAL

EDA's **Multinational Helicopter Training Centre (MHTC)** reached its Initial Operational Capability (IOC) at the end of 2023, following the transfer of all the training activities, information, and assets of the current EDA helicopter programmes to the centre. The transfer marked an end to one of the Agency's most successful ventures in its 20-year history.

The MHTC is located at Airbase nº1, in Sintra, Portugal, in the former facilities used by EDA. At the end of 2025, the MHTC is planned to start operations in new facilities, currently under construction, and reach Full Operational Capability (FOC) on 1 January 2026. With no equivalent in NATO, EDA's helicopter programmes have included several training activities, including tactics, electronic warfare and 'Composite Air Operations' planning courses, multinational exercises and an annual helicopter tactics symposium. In 2023, EDA ran 36 weeks of helicopter tactics training, including the Hot Blade 2023 exercise.

Between 2009 and 2023, EDA exercises deployed over 340 helicopters, 2,325 aircrew members and over 15,000 military personnel. Fully 1,050 aircrew members from 20 different countries graduated from the EDA Helicopter Tactics Course over its 81 editions. In addition, 163 helicopter crew members from 10 different countries graduated from the Helicopter Tactics Instructors Course over its nine editions. Furthermore, those activities have led to the establishment of a community of European helicopter operators, which regularly exchanges knowledge and experiences from training and operations.

EDA's 14th and final Helicopter Tactics Symposia took place in November 2023, bringing together some 70 specialists from 15 European countries including Ukraine, as well as representatives of NATO. In total, military and industry instructors have delivered 22 Electronic Warfare and Composite Air Operations planning courses. Furthermore, EDA has created its own helicopter Standard Operating Procedures, which are the basis for all training. They help to foster standardisation and improve interoperability levels.



Mission accomplished for the EDA helicopter programmes. This is a clear example of successful European cooperation, where an EU capability gap has been successfully filled."

José Pablo Romera,
Project Officer Rotary Wing

MILITARY MEDICAL EVACUATION BY AIR (AIRMEDEVAC)

EDA launched its latest framework contract in 2023 to support EU Members States' activities around the world. The framework contract gives access to specialised rotary and fixed-wing aircraft in Europe, Africa, and Asia, and allows armed forces to satisfy a wide range of aeromedical operational needs. With a total budget of €140 million for the implementation period of up to four years, the contract allows for more scope than in 2019, as well as an increase in the area of operations, with over 150 regions covered around the world.

EDA's framework contracts ensure that companies and aircraft are available to compete for a specific contract and that aircraft are available. EDA has played a behind-the-scenes role in giving EU armed forces access to air medical evacuation services on international missions and operations, when – and only when – they need it.

By agreeing so-called framework contracts ahead of time with providers – on behalf of parties including

EU Member States, EU entities and EU missions – EDA can then set the ground for specialists in military air medical evacuation to compete to offer the best and most cost-effective service.

AIR TRANSPORT TRAINING

In the air domain, EDA's fixed wing initiative 'Transport Pilot Training Capacity' was completed in 2022 and in 2023 evolved into the European Defence Airlift Training Academy (EDA-TA) PESCO project. The main target of the project is to harmonise transport pilot training within Europe, taking advantage of the three existing European Defence Airlift Schools (EDA-S). Furthermore, with a new country joining in 2023, 18 participating Member States have signed the common technical arrangement for air transport training and exercises, which allows the signatory nations to take part in training and exercises without dedicated arrangements as in the past. This tool was used throughout 2023 in different scenarios.



In moments of crisis, it is an honour to work on a project that makes a difference, saving lives and strengthening the EU defence cooperation. The success of the AIRMEDEVAC project is directly related to the seamless relationship that we have developed, as well as our ability to innovate and adapt, and our commitment to excellence."

Lita Salem Villar,
Project Officer AIRMEDEVAC

EDA AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND EU POLICIES

MILITARY MOBILITY

Military Mobility is an essential enabler for the effective, timely, and safe deployment, movement and transportation of military personnel and assets in missions, operations, training and exercises, or day-to-day activities. Military Mobility enables the swift, efficient, and unimpeded military movement, including at short notice and at large scale, across a well-connected network, with shorter reaction times, and secure and resilient infrastructure.

EDA is committed to supporting its Member States to overcome administrative hurdles to movement while ensuring coherence with NATO. All activities are in line with the Strategic Compass and the CDP Priorities. EDA is helping to implement the **Action Plan on Military Mobility 2.0**, which identified new objectives to improve resilience, develop lift capabilities, and enhance logistics of the armed forces based on a multimodal approach.

In 2023, work on Military Mobility continued. After the two Cross Border Movement Permission technical arrangements (Air and Surface) were signed in 2021 by more than 20 EU Member States addressing regulatory issues for cross-border movement, recommendations for the transport of dangerous goods in the land and air domains have now been established for the Member States who signed the technical arrangements. The two signed Technical Arrangements are in the implementation phase.

With a view to expanding the scope also to the maritime domain, EDA worked to smooth diplomatic clearance procedures for approving the entry of warships and government vessels to other Member States' territorial waters. A technical arrangement considers different mission types as well as platform and cargo-configurations. EDA has also pushed for the inclusion of Air Traffic Management into the Action Plan and the 2023 edition of the Military Requirements.



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

With the European Green Deal, the EU - the world's third-biggest greenhouse gas emitter - aims to become climate neutral by 2050. This has huge security implications for EU armed forces who should also reduce their carbon footprint to help meet that goal.

Throughout 2023, EDA and the European Commission continued to implement the third phase of the 'Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector' (CF SEDSS III).

In April 2023, experts from European ministries of defence, EU bodies, industry and academia met in Crete for the second thematic workshop to discuss reducing the carbon emissions of defence installations. The workshop was hosted by the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence. In May 2023, in Sofia, the Agency organised the first CF SEDSS hybrid threats tabletop exercise hosted by the Bulgarian Defence Institute under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of Defence. This exercise brought together European defence and civilian stakeholders to raise awareness of strengthening the resilience of defence-related critical energy infrastructure (CEI). In this context, the Agency presented a joint study developed with the Commission / DG Joint Research Centre (JRC).



In 2023, we intensified our efforts to support the European ministries of defence with strategies, skills, and disruptive technologies essential for effectively navigating a post-2030 energy landscape, dominated by clean and electric power."

Constantinos Hadjisavvas,
CF SEDSS and Symbiosis Project Manager



Adopting circular practices can help armed forces cut drastically their emissions by close to 40%. IF CEED project ideas will also contribute to an increased availability of assets, improved interoperability and a reduction of costs linked to materials and energy consumption."

Pierre Di Toro,
IF CEED 2 Programme Manager

In June, EDA organised the second CF SEDSS high-level joint defence and energy conference in Stockholm under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Ministry of Defence of Sweden. EDA also presented, together with DG JRC, a study on the impacts of climate change on defence-related CEI. Lastly, in November 2023, EDA organised the sixth CF SEDSS plenary conference in Malaga under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU and hosted by the Ministry of Defence of Spain, with the support of engineering services company ISDEFE. This conference combined the second CF SEDSS Energy Technology Solutions Conference and an onsite exhibition.

SPACE

The EU is stepping up its efforts to ensure safe and secure use of, and autonomous access to, the space domain. In March 2023, the 'European Union Space Strategy for Security and Defence', a 'Joint Communication' was presented by the High Representative and the European Commission. It explores how the bloc can further protect national and European space systems and services and enhance the EU's strategic posture and autonomy in the space domain. Throughout 2023, EDA worked in support of the Joint Communication in its implementation phase to ensure that the defence requirements of Member States are met as EU space policy develops. *See also: CapTech Space.*

PROMOTING DEFENCE COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS

DENMARK JOINED EDA IN 2023

The decision by Denmark to abolish its opt-out related to EU defence allowed its full participation in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). In March 2023, Denmark became a full participating member of EDA. Danish participation in the Agency broadens EDA membership to all EU Member States.

RELATIONS WITH THIRD PARTIES

In 2023, the Agency completed a review of the involvement in EDA activities and projects of third parties with whom it has concluded an Administrative Arrangement (AA). To date, the Agency has entered into an AA with four countries (Norway, Switzerland, Serbia, Ukraine, and the United States) and two international organisations (OCCAR and the European Space Agency). To provide the Steering Board with a comprehensive overview of the full breadth of third parties' current involvement in EDA activities, including potential imbalances in the cooperation, this review was presented in September 2023.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT (AA) COUNTRIES

Having concluded an Administrative Arrangement with the United States Department of Defense in 2023, EDA now has formal participation with the five AA countries:

Norway remained the most involved of them, after 17 years, with cooperation extending to all four areas and over 30 areas of work in which it is involved. Research & Technology (R&T) is the area where cooperation with Norway is the deepest.

Switzerland's involvement in EDA continued to be mainly focused on R&T, even though cooperation also developed in other areas, notably cyber and helicopter training.

Cooperation with **Serbia** decreased in 2023 as a result of a national decision in 2022 to suspend participation in multinational exercises. Serbia has continued to take

part in the Consultation Forum on Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS).

Russia's unprovoked invasion of **Ukraine** has prevented Kyiv from participating in EDA activities under the Administrative Arrangement concluded in 2015. The Agency remains fully committed to contributing to the EU's coordinated efforts in support of Ukraine, notably through its project related to the joint procurement of 155mm ammunition.

The Administrative Arrangement was signed in Brussels on April 26, 2023, between EDA and the Department of Defense of the **United States of America** (DoD). It enables a substantial defence dialogue on selected topics within EDA's areas of expertise. It will allow invitations for the U.S. Department of Defense to attend relevant meetings of EDA's Steering Board – as well as vice-versa, with EDA joining meetings convened by the U.S. DoD as appropriate. The arrangement also allows for U.S. participation in the open session of the European Defence Standardisation Committee (EDSC) for interoperability and interchangeability across armed forces. Areas of discussion are not limited to any structures, although it was agreed that the initial scope of cooperation must avoid any export-control implications. Dialogue started in 2023 with supply chains, Military Mobility, standardisation, climate change and information exchange on some wider EU policies such as REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and its impact on military activities and the defence sector at large.

NATO

In 2023, the Agency's close cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) focused on ensuring coherence between EU and NATO defence planning processes, and respective capability development efforts in areas such as Military Mobility, cyber, hybrid, air-to-air refuelling, military aviation, and standardisation.

The EDA Chief Executive provided an update on EDA's work, notably the joint procurement of 155mm

ammunition, to the NATO Conference of National Armament Directors in April and October 2023, while the NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment provided an update to EDA National Armament Directors in March 2023.

The Agency also supported Member States in ensuring that there is no unnecessary duplication between PESCO projects and activities undertaken in other frameworks in NATO.

MCDC

EDA has continued to observe, together with the EU Military Staff (EUMS), the 'Multinational Capability Development Campaign' (MCDC), a multinational framework lead by the United States with 23 partner countries and organisations.

OCCAR

Bilateral cooperation with the Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation (OCCAR) in the framework of the Administrative Arrangement continued. The initial operational capability of the Multinational Multi Role Tanker Transport Fleet (MMF) was celebrated at Ministerial level, acknowledging the key role played by EDA and OCCAR. Regular information exchange on respective activities continues to take place, with EDA supporting in particular the second phase of OCCAR European MALE RPAS programme.

OTHER PARTNERS

The cooperation with other partners such as the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), Eurocontrol, the Single European Sky Air Traffic Research Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU), the SESAR Deployment Alliance, the European Air Transport Command (EATC), SatCen and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) continued in their respective areas of activities.



IN-HOUSE

EU CLASSIFIED INFORMATION (EUCI)

EDA focused its efforts on the electronic handling of EU classified and sensitive information to improve information security. During 2023, **EDA-S** maintained the necessary security accreditation and interim approval to operate (IATO) and handle EU Classified Information up to the SECRET UE/ EU SECRET classification level, reaching its Initial Operating Capability (IOC). Additionally, EDA-S became an accredited node of the EU Ops Wide Area Network (EOW), enabling communication at that level of classification with Member States already connected to EOW. The project is currently under internal test verification and external contracted system evaluation before it reaches Full Operational Capability (FOC) and final accreditation by the EU Council Security Accreditation Board (SAB).

EDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On 30 November 2023, EDA held its annual conference, entitled "Powering Up European Defence". The conference was opened by the President of the European Council Charles Michel. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gave a keynote speech in which she gave the first details of the Commission's 2024 European Defence Industrial Strategy. Oleksandr Kamyshin, Ukrainian Minister of Strategic Industries, also spoke. In all, the event brought together speakers including Belgium's Minister of Defence Ludivine Dedonder, senior EU and NATO officials, executives in the EU defence industry and Head of Agency and EU High Representative Josep Borrell.

The event was one of EDA's best attended, with more than 300 external participants onsite and more than 1,000 people viewing online. Pan-European coverage of the conference was high, with close to 100 articles retrieved from both mainstream and specialised media. There were also more than half a million views on social posts related to the conference.

DEFENCE DATA

EDA published its annual defence data report for 2021-2022 on 30 November 2023, detailing defence spending by the EDA's 27 Member States. The report detailed how total defence spending across the European Union reached €240 billion, a 6% increase compared to 2021 and a record high in absolute terms for the 27 countries. That figure equalled 1.5% of the countries' collective economic output.

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

EDA will continue to publish documents on its website under "EDA DOCUMENTS" in order to make them directly available to the public without the need to submit access to document requests and to increase transparency and the availability of information about EDA's activities. If, however, an EDA document has not been published yet, a request for access can be made. Applications shall be made in writing and sent to the Agency by email to acesstodocuments@eda.europa.eu.



The 2023 EDA annual conference brought together an exceptional line-up of speakers, as well as members of the Ukrainian government at war. The annual conference has become the place to be for EU policymakers, Ministers of Defence, and industry leaders to debate ways to deepen defence cooperation."

Lionel Sola,
Head of Media & Communication



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

#EDAconf23

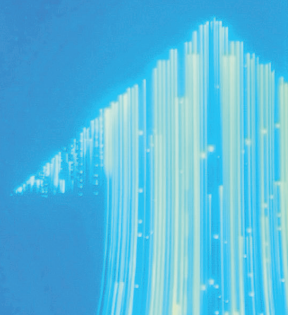


ANNUAL CONFERENCE | 30.11.2023

HEAD OF AGENCY ADDRESS:
POWERING UP EUROPEAN DEFENCE

**JOSEP
BORRELL FONTELLES**

*HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY
HIGH REPRESENTATIVE AND VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION*



FACTS & FIGURES

EDA PORTFOLIO

Number of projects, programmes and activities which were in progress at year-end 2023: 94



EDA Operational Budget

€16.09
million



Ad hoc Capability and R&T

94

(34 CAP, 53 R&T)



Generic & Supporting Activities

16 Generic and
10 Preparatory Actions



Support to PESCO projects

9

(including those in an EDA framework)

Member States' contribution to ongoing ad hoc Capability and R&T programmes and projects

(with effect end – 2023, in million €)*

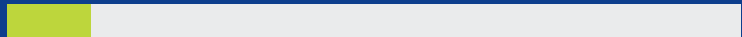
Financial

€348.01
million



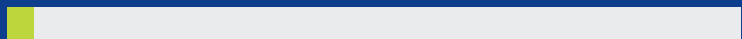
Value in Kind

€52.93
million



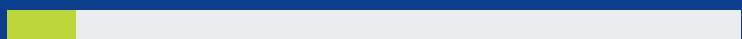
Industrial Contribution

€16.76
million



Industrial Contribution in Kind

€42.96
million



Total:

€460.66
million

PESCO projects that are supported by EDA:

Support as EDA **Ad Hoc Category B** (opt-in) projects, with full project management and administrative support:

- Next Generation Small RPAS (NGSR)
- Essential Elements of European Escort (4E)
- 'Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear Surveillance as Service' (CBRN SaaS)
- 'Deployable Modular Underwater Intervention Capability Package' (DIVEPACK)
- 'European Patrol Corvette' (EPC)
- 'Cyber and Information Domain Coordination Centre' (CIDCC)

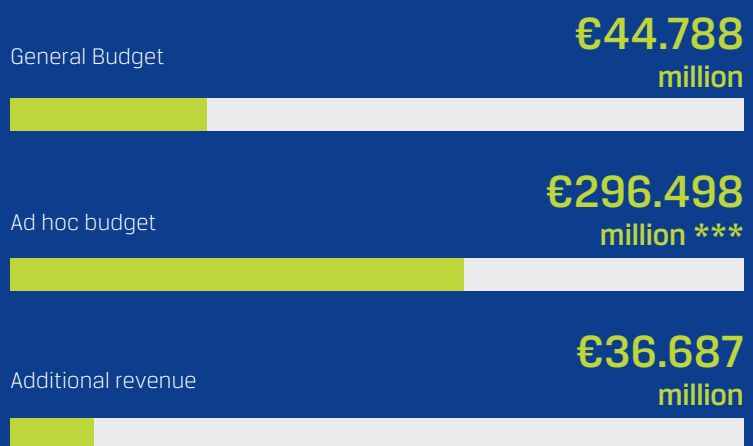
Support as '**Ad hoc non-Cat. B**' (providing temporarily expertise in a specific item)

- Future Medium-size Tactical Cargo (FMTC)
- Strategic Air Transport for Outsized Cargo (SATOC)
- Geo-meteorological and oceanographic (GEOMETOC) support coordination element (GMSCE).

EDA Budget 2023

EDA's budget consists of the general budget, the budgets associated with ad hoc projects or programmes and budgets resulting from additional revenue for a total budget of

€379.974
million **



* where formal agreements have been concluded

** 2023 figures are provisional

*** Ad hoc budget figures include only financial contributions directly managed by EDA

EDA Staff

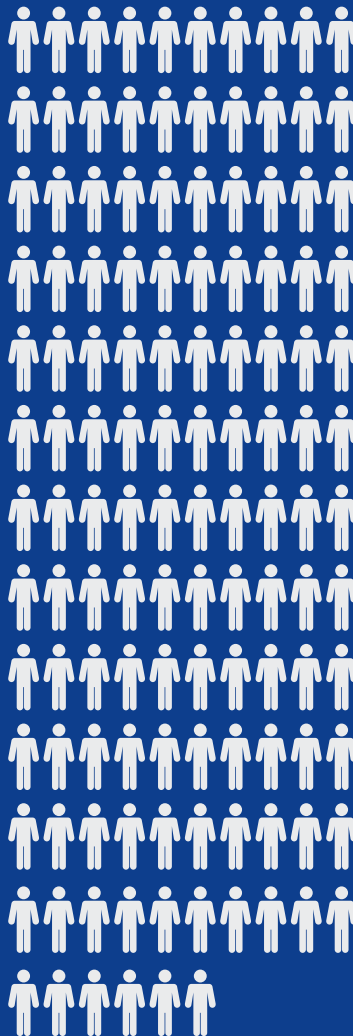
188
(on 31/12/2023)

Gender distribution:

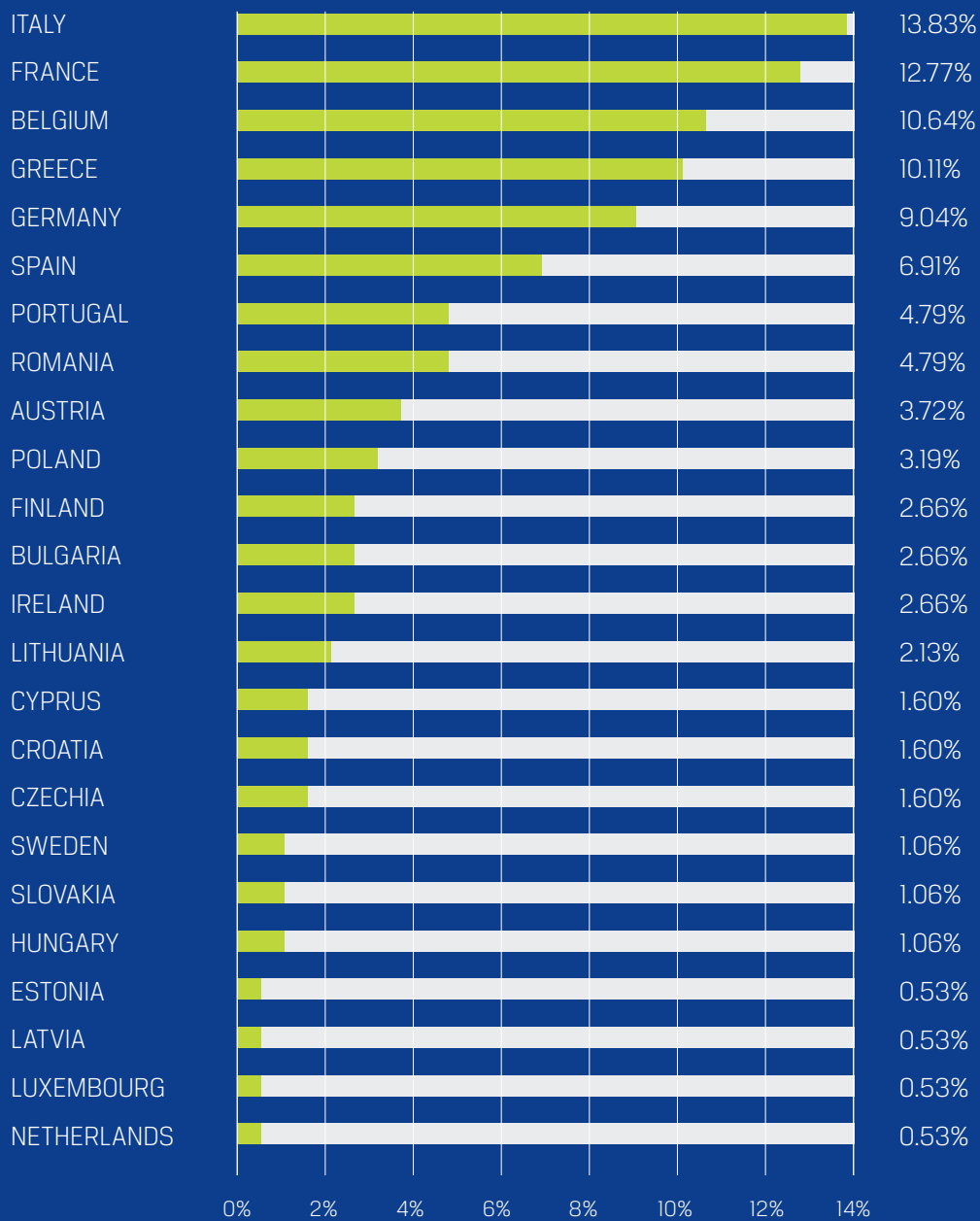
Female 33%



Male 67%



Nationality distribution:



EDA MANAGEMENT AS OF JUNE 2024



Josep BORRELL,

Head of the European Defence Agency, in his role as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission



Jiří ŠEDIVÝ,

Chief Executive



André Denk,

Deputy Chief Executive



Stefano CONT,

Director Capability,
Armament and Planning (CAP)



Seán WHITE,

Director Industry,
Synergies & Enablers (ISE)



Nathalie GUICHARD,

Director Research,
Technology and Innovation (RTI)



Ginette MANDERSCHIED,

Director Corporate Services
Directorate (CSD)

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20 YEARS PROMOTING EUROPEAN
DEFENCE COOPERATION
2004-2024

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