



**Boosting the  
defence energy  
transition**

## Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS) – Phase III

### Working Group 3 – Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure

#### What

As one of the four working groups of the third phase of the Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector (CF SEDSS III), working group 3 (WG-3) on protection of critical energy infrastructure (PCEI) aims at **strengthening the research on the resilience and protection of defence-related critical energy infrastructure** and identifying related hybrid and asymmetrical threats.

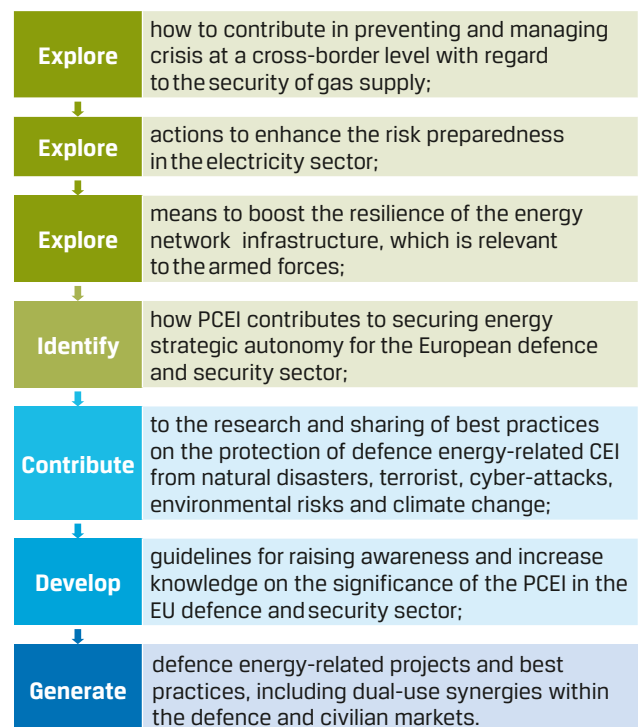
Critical infrastructures do not operate as isolated systems and the continuity of their services is dependent on the proper operations of other networks. Challenges are associated with protecting national critical energy infrastructure from threats – including cyber, terrorist attacks or natural disasters – and how to maintain the energy supply chain and operational resilience in the energy domain. These threats may create significant risks, as an increased exposure to incidents potentially jeopardises the security of energy supply.

In this context, WG-3 explores opportunities that derive from the implementation of the EU legislation on energy security, and in particular the European Critical Infrastructures Directive (ECI), the Regulation on Security of Gas Supply and the Regulation of Risk Preparedness in the Electricity Sector.

Although national authorities are predominantly responsible for the protection of critical infrastructure, related disruptions can have a negative impact across national borders, thus requiring an EU dimension.

#### How

By providing a platform for discussion and sharing of expertise among MoDs, academia, industry, research and technology organisations, WG-3 will address the following objectives:



In this regard, WG-3 will also develop templates that can be used by the MoDs to test their vulnerability, risk assessment, and emergency plans.

## Deliverables

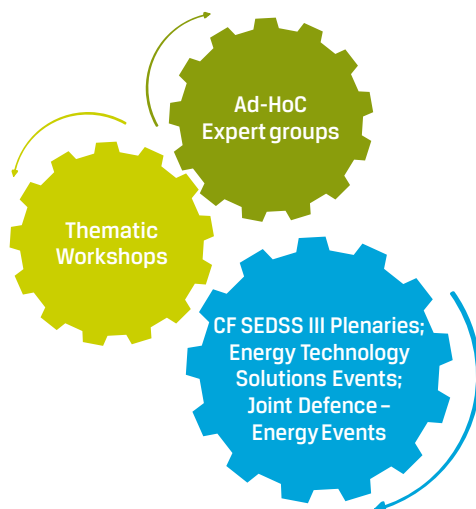
To maximise its impact, WG-3 will produce the following **deliverables** throughout the 48-month period of the project:

<b>PROJECT IDEAS</b> up to 8 information sheets on defence energy-related project ideas	<b>RESEARCH STUDIES</b> develop up to 2 defence energy-related research studies	<b>GUIDANCE DOCUMENT</b> on the implementation of EU energy legislation in the defence sector
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The production of these project ideas, research studies and recommendations, combined with the application for funding or financing opportunities, will contribute to the research to support MoDs in strengthening the functions of power grids, transport networks, information and communication systems and in preventing damage or destruction of critical infrastructures by man-made or natural disasters, terrorism and criminal activities.

## Events

WG-3 will contribute to a number of **events** running from October 2019 to September 2023. Phase III introduces a novel model of activities in addition to the plenary conferences, including but not limited to joint defence-energy meetings, thematic and regional workshops.



During phase III, WG-3 will be in charge of organising a total of five events: two thematic workshops including a table-top exercise on hybrid threats and three ad-hoc experts groups. These meetings will ensure that WG-3 will address in-depth critical energy infrastructure considerations to reduce the related vulnerabilities in the defence sector; will bring MoDs closer to relevant experts from industry, academia and research and technology organisations; and will guarantee continuity of research activities developed during the plenary conferences.

## Impact

Energy security requires adequate protection of critical infrastructure, which ultimately plays a substantial role in **securing strategic energy autonomy within the European defence sector**. The activities of WG-3 aim at developing dual-use research, particularly looking at synergies between the military and civilian use of functional infrastructures (e.g. hospitals, airports, operational and command & control centres) and public critical infrastructures that deliver vital services, such as electricity, telecommunication, water and gas.

Research will also be implemented to identify digital energy technologies and networks, which can support the functionality of the infrastructure. This collaborative research will impact the capacity of the EU MoDs to prevent and react in case of disruption in the operation of critical energy infrastructure, having the potential to hamper basic social and economic functions as well adversely impact the defence and security sector.

## Background

WG-3 is one of the four working groups of CF SEDSS phase III. CF SEDSS is a European Commission funded initiative managed by the European Defence Agency (EDA), in collaboration with the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) and the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The third phase, which has a duration of 4 years expiring on 30 September 2023, is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 882171.