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NOTE

From:	ATLAS Network
To:	Delegations
Subject:	ATLAS Network
	– Work Programme 2023

Delegations will find in the Annex the work program of ATLAS for 2023, to be presented and discussed during the informal videoconference of the members of the Law Enforcement Working Party on 10 November 2021.

ATLAS ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2023

APPLICANT: LYNX COMMANDO

PART 2 – DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

2.1. Relevance of the action

2.1.1 What are the objectives of the project?

Describe which objectives you intend to achieve through the implementation of the planned activities

Planned activities

The ATLAS Network is a cooperation structure between 38 Special Intervention Units (SIUs) that includes and supports different training platforms and sharing of best practices in terms of proficiency and tactics.

The main priority for the year 2023 is the execution of cross border operations, as well as the implementation of trainings, workshops and exercises. The resulting challenges need special attention and preparation on all levels and areas of competence: intervention in urban, rural and maritime areas, transport means and buildings are focal points as well as drone handling, sniper, communication, negotiation skills and others. In addition, the capability to render medical first aid during field operations needs to be trained, developed and improved.

Joint trainings, workshops, courses and project groups are the systematic approach to increase the readiness of involved units to handle possible terrorist attacks and/or incidents.

Another priority is the development of Common Training Centres, acting as "Centres of Excellence" (CoE). These structures serve as dedicated facilities to provide standardized training and knowledge transfer to the ATLAS member units. Thus, the quality of the delivered training can be kept consistently on the highest level. At the same time, the amount of the target groups/participants can be increased. Along with this structure, a dedicated programme for "Pooling and Sharing" of special equipment will be further developed.

To bring forward these topics, working groups will define the detailed needs and implementation tasks.

Next to the already operating "Centre of Excellence-Aircraft" and "Centre of Excellence - Medic" the "Centre of Excellence-Naval" is in development. Further strategic objective is the establishment of a joint training facility "Centre of Excellence Building". First initiatives were taken already in 2021 by procurement of special equipment as well as included in the Pooling & Sharing programme.

Due to the fact that terrorism is a global issue, ATLAS's response is to find adequate "strategic and primer partners" at an international level. In order to develop and strengthen the already existing international contacts as well as to reach out to other law enforcement SIUs (operating at a national level), ATLAS included the so-called "Police Special Intervention Units Conference (POLSPEC)" into the AWP. The aim of this "International Law Enforcement SIU - Conference" is to discuss and share matters related to security, counter-terrorism and capability development from a SIU perspective. POLSPEC should become a recurrent conference (3 years), used to facilitate the sharing of information among SIUs worldwide and to further intensify the international fight against terrorism as well as to increase the protection of European citizens.

2.1.2 Which type(s) of eligible activity(ies) specified in the Invitation will the project involve?

The allocation of funds will cover numerous activities which allow the differently specialised groups to increase their operational proficiency and to aid in carrying out various training/tactical response building exercises and workshops. In addition, the "management of the action", carried out by the chairing member state on behalf of the ATLAS-Network, will be included.

IN GENERAL:

* The Management of the Action of these complex themes is summarised in the following activities

- The organization and implementation of the "ATLAS Commanders Forum" and "Management Board Meeting" (in each case 2). Venue of the ATLAS Commanders Forum 2023/1 and POLSPEC conference is planned to take place in Sweden respectively Spain for the ATLAS Commanders Forum 2023/2 as it follows the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU. The venue of the Management Board Meetings is yet to be announced. The above-mentioned activities serve the following goals:
- Reconnaissance of new/actual threats and development of appropriate strategies including assigning these topics to theme expert groups/project teams for further examination.
- Discussion and strategy development regarding the progress and goal implementation of "ATLAS Centres of Excellence", extent of pooling & sharing solutions, the establishment, development of secure communication line, etc., whereby the results of these considerations are becoming part of the ATLAS<>EUROPOL cooperation involvement.
- The implementation of consultations of the ATLAS Executive Bureau (AEB), ATLAS Support Office (ASO), ATLAS SIUs, EUROPOL and other project partners to discuss contextual and administrative topics of work programmes.
- The implementation of strategy - and network meetings with essential stakeholders (EUROPOL, Commission, other EU-Agencies and Networks) to discuss and present the "ATLAS Network Activities" and strategic focus.

EXPERT GROUPS (EG's):

* The **Expert Group – BUILDING** will have a joint "*Training Session*" planned for 160 persons. Different stages will be prepared for the participants, which must be solved by each SIU. Rotating system will be used so all units will have the chance to pass each stage. After completing each stage feedback will be given and a debriefing will be organised to discuss the approach and solution method of the teams.

* The **Expert Group – AIRCRAFT** will debrief the Aircraft activities of 2022 at the "*Steering group meeting I*" which is planned for 10 persons. This is the meeting where the priorities and the calendar for the 2023 activities will be determined and the preparations for the 2023 EG Aircraft Workshop will start. Main activity of the EG is the "*Workshop*" which is planned for ~72 persons. It will allow training in CoE, where cold and hot breaching methods can be used and the cooperation between breachers and assaulters can be observed, evaluated and improved. Moreover, it is planned to involve different Expert Groups and Forum entities as Entry, Silent Team, Sniper and C4 (Command, Control, Communication, Coordination) in all phases such as reconnaissance, approach, evacuation and hand-over. Finally, practical exchange of experience

will take place. The “*Steering group meeting II*” planned for 10 persons will debrief deliverables of the 2023 activities, discuss the strategy and prepare activities as well as the budget for 2024.

* The **Expert Group – NAVAL** will organise three main activities the “RHIB Course”, a “Maritime Rapid Response Workshop” and the “Maritime Rapid Response – Table Top Exercise” (TTEx).

The RHIB Course will start with a “Preparation meeting” for 19 participants where objectives for the RHIB course will be presented, goals will be refined. Analysis of lessons learned from previous RHIB activities will be implemented to the upcoming course. Main task of the preparation meeting is the planning and setting up of objective and content of the RHIB course balancing theoretical and practical parts. The “RHIB-Course” will provide an opportunity to implement the RHIB Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and facilitate the international cooperation among ATLAS EG NAVAL SIUs. Furthermore, the boat-drivers will be assigned to evaluate the content and to refine the document (SOP). The overall objective is to prepare for joint and coordinated response and share best practices for the event of an emerging terror incident on sailing vessels.

The Maritime Rapid Response Workshop will start with the “Kick-off meeting” with 22 participants where lessons learned from previous EG NAVAL activities will be discussed. Objectives and content of the workshop will be set up and the draft of agenda and schedule of the workshop will be reviewed. It will be followed by the “Preparation meeting I” with 22 participants where the preparations for the workshop will continue. Expected outcome of the workshop will be described. The draft and the schedule for the workshop will be introduced. At the “Preparation meeting II” to be attended by 22 participants the final preparations for the workshop will take place, final decision will be made on the attending assets (OPV's / MPVs – ships, Helicopters, RHIBs – boats, air-sea rescue service, assignment of exercise staff, debriefing and redeployment). “Workshop” as the main activity is planned to be executed according to the objectives, agenda and schedule developed during the preparation meetings. It is planned for 22 participants from the coordination team, 120 participants as assaulters, liaison officers, 15 helicopter pilots, 15 boat leaders/coxswains, 15 officers as naval combat service support, 30 role players (Tangos, Hotels or Perpetrators and Victims) and observers. Total number of participants at workshop Maritime Rapid Response is estimated at 221 persons. After the “Workshop” the “Wrap-up meeting” will be organised to evaluate the results and outcome observed by the workshop coordination team during the “Workshop”. Evaluate best practice solutions, evaluate and refine NAVAL SOP. Future activities will be discussed at the meeting and Work package for 2024 will be described.

The Maritime Rapid Response – Table Top Exercise (TTEx) will start with the “Kick-off meeting” and 14 participants where the work package TTEx Maritime Rapid Response will be introduced to the experts. Specific outputs, objectives and deliverables will be described. At this stage the agenda and schedule for the TTEx will be drafted, general and specific terror attack scenarios on certain targets developed. It is followed by “Preparation meeting” with 14 participants where final preparations will take place. Decision on the venue will be taken, development and refinement of scenarios and tactical tasks discussed. Assignments to exercise staff to orchestrate the TTEx will be given. After that the “Table Top Exercise Maritime Rapid Response” planned for 40 participants will be executed according to the objectives, agenda and schedule developed on the occasion of the preparation meeting. Participants will have an opportunity to validate presented information, explore issues discovered during the TTEx. Establish possible solutions and to develop operational principles for rapid deployment of ATLAS intervention forces and naval assets during day and night to cope with killing sprees and suicide attacks on board of vessels underway or on anchor. The tactical focus will be on deployment of ATLAS intervention forces under time pressure (Helicopter assault forces, Boat assault forces, Sniper). At the “Wrap-up meeting” with 22 participants the evaluation of the TTEx based on the experience gained from the perspective of the exercise staff will be held with best practice solutions and possible refinement of NAVAL SOP suggestions. Presentation

concerning the content and outcome of the TTEEx and deliverables for the ATLAS network will be prepared during the meeting.

* The **Expert Group – TRANSPORT** will have a “*Preparation meeting*” with 16 persons, to discuss the focus of the EG regarding its tactical areas (e.g., trains, metro, coaches, etc.), prepare the story book for the main event, evaluate the previous activities. Main objectives and content of SIUs training needs in different traffic means will be determined, as well as detailed training program for 2024 prepared. The “*Training session*” will give the chance to participating units to practise the solution of crisis situations in different traffic means. More specifically, it should be in Spain with focus on the railroad network as Spain currently possesses one of the largest high speed railroad networks with total length stretching up to 3400 km. The outcome and impact of lessons learned during training activities will be assessed, evaluated/developed at the “*Wrap up meeting*”, deliverables prepared for the ATLAS network.

* **ATLAS COMMON CHALLENGE 3.0 (ACC)** a planned training of all ATLAS Expert Groups (Aircraft, Building, Naval, and Transport) that will be conducted on the same date and result in the Europe-wide counter terrorism activity. To coordinate this activity it is planned to organize a kick-off meeting and a preparatory meeting. The ACC, organised on a regular basis (previously in 2013 and 2018) consists of simultaneously coordinated counter-terrorist assaults against perpetrators in different environments (land, sea) and various transport services (trains, buses, ships, aircrafts) in different European countries. This large-scale training is a challenge for the ATLAS network and serves as an opportunity to test the internal cooperation amongst expert groups and forums.

ATLAS FORUMS:

* The **Forum – SNIPER** starts with the “*Kick-off Meeting*” with the aim to develop ideas and plan the Workshop. It will be followed by the main event of the Forum the “*Sniper Forum Workshop*”. It is a practical workshop where participants will practice and learn different techniques (e.g., angular shooting), exchange real experience and define the best practice in ATLAS SIUs. The evaluation of the Workshop will be held at the “*Wrap-up meeting*”, where deliverables will be prepared, activity discussed, and future activities planned.

* The **Forum – MEDIC** will have a “*Medic Forum Meeting*” – for planning purposes and to implement the Intermediate Tactical Medical Provider Course (ITMP) and MASCAL- Mass Casualty Event Training Course (METC). The development and strategy of the “*Centre of Excellence - Medic*” will be a further topic on the agenda and needs to be discussed in detail. Forum MEDIC will give the opportunity for ATLAS Medics to deepen their knowledge and skills. “*ITMP course*” is planned to train 16 operators and provide them with special medical knowledge, skills related to operational work and tactical medicine treatment on midlevel of medical competence. The “*METC course*” is focused on Mass Casualty situations. The goal is to provide and improve the knowledge and skills among the medical professionals of ATLAS SIUs on the most important activities which are obligatory to perform in such situations. The course is also planned for max. 16 participants/SIU operators.

* The **Forum - INNOVATION** will have a “*Preparation meeting*” to evaluate the previous period and the results. Experiences gained from the activities focused on the use of drones as tactical support weapons and particularly to breach windows and walls by placing explosive loads via Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) will be disseminated. Discuss the actual tasks and develop a detailed programme. The procurement of the 4-legged robot is necessary to conduct in “*Workshop Robotics and Artificial Intelligence*”.

The focus is on the integration of innovative technologies in reconnaissance and intervention operations. The 4-legged robot is meant to be a part of the ATLAS pooling & sharing programme rotating (regular basis/3months) within the ATLAS network. Training of operators

is part of the activity and test results are to be shared. The “Workshop Drones” will include practical in- and outdoor tests to assess and develop the possible use of drones in SIU missions and the development of special robotics firmware and hardware for SIUs.

* The **Forum – ENTRY** will have a “Steering group meeting I” with 7 participants, to prepare the 2023 Entry seminar and to determine the priorities and activities for 2023. The following “Seminar” planned for ~40 participants and focus on the exchange of new entry technologies, practices, methods and exchange of practical experiences between participants. The “Steering group meeting II” with 7 persons, is planned to debrief the 2023 Entry activities and deliverables as well as to prepare the 2024 Entry strategy and budget.

* The **Forum – C4** plans to have a “Kick-off Meeting” with 11 participants to start the WP of 2023, plan the upcoming preparation meetings and to assign tasks for involved units. The “Preparation meeting I” with 11 participants is organized for development and preparation purposes. Here the objectives and content of the main activity will be set up. The “Preparation meeting II” with 11 participants is organised with the aim of planning the agenda and the detailed schedule of the upcoming Exercise, set up the evaluation procedures, finalise the preparations. The “Exercise” of C4-Forum is planned for ~60 participants. The main task is to practice the communication lines in real time and exchange of information between operators on the field and command posts. A “Wrap-up Meeting” is organised to discuss the results, evaluate the relevance for the C4 Manual of Guidance (MoG) and to prepare the projects for 2024.

* The **Forum – RAPID RESPONSE** will have the “Preparation Meeting” with 22 participants to analyse the lessons learned from previous activities, set up the objectives and content for the workshop and develop the scenario along with drafting of agenda. The “Workshop” is planned for 87 participants and will be executed according to the objectives and agenda. Secure mobile communication such as NEOS/C4 are supporting measures. During the “Wrap-up Meeting” with 22 participants, the coordination team will discuss the result and outcome. Best practice and solutions will be shared within the network and future activities as well as the draft of the work package for 2024 planned.

* The **Forum – NEGOTIATION** will have a “Start-up meeting” with 11 participants where the main agenda is to plan the activities for implementation of CT-negotiation (Counterterrorism). After the meeting a clear working agenda for the year will be decided and all members of the steering committee will have a clear assignment to work on regarding activities. The “Preparation meeting's” objective with 11 participants is to prepare the CT course. The members of the steering committee will present the assignment they were given at the start-up meeting. A clear agenda for the CT course is to be settled and decided. The main event will be a 5-day activity planned for 30 participants with theoretical and practical lectures. The last activity of this forum is the “Wrap up Meeting” with 11 participants that will be held to evaluate the CT course prepare deliverables and plan for the year to come.

* The **Forum – SILENT TEAM** will start with the “Preparation Meeting” planned for 6 participants with the purpose to define the training scenarios, inspect the venue sites used in the upcoming training and define the personal and material requirements for participants. The “Training” as the main activity is planned for 30 participants, will allow to train best practices and techniques in the field of Silent team activities. The “Wrap-up meeting” is planned for 6 participants to summarise the training activity and to identify the tactical as well as technical enhancements. Deliverables will be prepared and shared within the network.

ATLAS PROJECTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

* The **Project – K9** will have a “Kick-off meeting” for 14 participants with service dogs to present the objectives of the workshop, refine the K9 SOP, present the scenarios and discuss the expected outcome of the workshop. The “Kick-off meeting” will be followed by a “Workshop” for 14 participants divided into: raids in buildings, rappelling with harness and service dog, activities in low visibility conditions and others. In addition, medical intervention techniques in case of injured dog will be trained. Conclusions and results will be created and summarised as SOP to be shared amongst the network.

* The **ATLAS IT STEERING Group/EPE EXPERT USERS** will have a “Steering Meeting” to explore the currently available secure communication tools (SIENA/OPS-NET-EPE/VCP/NEOS), suggest possible developments and ensure progress in secure information exchange. The “Expert users meeting” will include training for 35 EPE Expert Users.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (COE) - General Introduction:

One of the ATLAS priorities is the planned establishment and operation of common training centres, so-called ATLAS Centres of Excellence (CoE). These structures shall serve as institutions that provide standardised training and knowledge transfer for ATLAS SIUs. Thus, the quality of the delivered training can be kept consistently at the highest level and at the same time, the number of target groups/participants can be increased.

In accordance with the objectives of the EU Council Decision 2008/617, the ATLAS Network has been organising common trainings and exercises for European SIUs for several years. In vital training areas, a further bundling of resources and coordination of training activities is reasonable to achieve better results.

For this step the establishment of common training centres (Centres of Excellence/CoE) is necessary. Such centres should cover those training needs that cannot be trained individually by every ATLAS SIU in their MS because of the complexity or the required set-up of training facilities. In particular, this concerns trainings that must be carried out in a very realistic environment.

The Centre of Excellence Aircraft and Medic are already set up and in use by all ATLAS SIUs. Centres of Excellence Naval and Building are in the process of establishment through pooling of specialized equipment to ensure training possibilities to all network members.

*** The CoE Medic no expenses foreseen in 2023.**

*** The CoE Aircraft no expenses foreseen in 2023 budget except maintenance costs for the “Mockups”.**

*** The CoE Naval no expenses foreseen in 2023 budget.**

*** The CoE Building no expenses foreseen in 2023 budget.**

In case of extra funds allocation Atlas network is prepared to file in further proposals for related activities.

2.2. Quality of the proposed action

Description of the action regarding its conception, organisation and management

Describe the planned steps of the action, the methodology, organisation of work and strategy for project management, evaluation and dissemination. Describe the role of the Applicant and the Affiliated entities.

ATLAS is a transnational network of 38 special intervention units from all 27 EU-MS and Iceland, Norway, United Kingdom and Switzerland. With regards to the Council Decision 2008/617/JHA of 23 June 2008, ATLAS organises joint trainings and exercises in maritime and urban environments. Furthermore, workshops and meetings in the particular fields of AIRCRAFT (operations in and outside), NAVAL (maritime operations), ENTRY (overcoming obstacles), BUILDING (urban tactics, critical infrastructure), MEDIC (emergency medical support), SNIPER (deployment of marksmen), NEGOTIATION (negotiation with terrorists in crisis situations), C4 (command/ control/ communication/ coordination), RAPID RESPONSE (quick reaction force), TRANSPORT (trains, metro, busses, etc.), INNOVATION (unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned ground systems, robot techniques, etc.), SILENT TEAM (concealed tactical approach) and K9 (use of specially trained dogs in operations) will be carried out. As Europe has been confronted with a rising number of terrorist attacks, serious and organised crime cases as well as man-made crisis situations, ATLAS focuses on enhancing the ability to mobilize and react adequately in such scenarios.

The execution of the Europe-wide counter-terrorism exercise ("ATLAS COMMON CHALLENGE 2018") in October 2018, in which 35 of all 38 ATLAS special intervention units were involved, proved the astonishing level of expertise in tactical cooperation in operations. Nevertheless, it also showed some weaknesses in the area of cross-border communication.

In the upcoming "ATLAS COMMON CHALLENGE 2023" it is planned that all ATLAS Expert Groups are participating in this operational training driven as close as possible to real situations connected through the mobile security communication tool NEOS.

By implementing the training activities listed in the ATLAS work programme, this level of expertise is expected to be kept at a high level. Furthermore, ATLAS took initiatives at a national as well as international level to provide a basis for the use of common communication systems and the connection of all ATLAS SIUs to a common secure communication system (SIENA and Operations Network Exchange Platform – Europol Platform for Experts (ONEP-EPE)). ATLAS and its partners are constantly developing the platforms necessary to support secure data transfer and information exchange between the ATLAS SIUs. In addition, the ATLAS network further developed the secure mobile communication tool NEOS, which is available to all ATLAS SIUs.

All results of the ATLAS actions are distributed via internal communication channels to all network members and, where appropriate, to regular police forces. All tactical information is considered "classified" (restricted, confidential, etc.) and will be handled in a sensitive way (SIENA, ONEP-EPE, etc.). All "non-classified" information is directly accessible for all partners of the ATLAS network via the website of ATLAS (EPE).

The general objectives and strategies are defined at regularly held ATLAS Commanders Forums and Management Board Meetings.

Theoretical and practical activities are the main elements of the ATLAS network. The basic principle is to exercise under real conditions, hence the focus on simulating the execution of operations to cope with certain terror threats or attacks.

Moreover, the ATLAS SIUs are aware of their shortcomings and requirements in operational

capabilities and skills. Such shortcomings call for creative and extraordinary approaches, such as experiments in the field of forced entry to potential operational areas.

For this reason, there are different fields of work: the "Expert Groups" will conduct various exercises (emphasis: interventions in urban areas), the "Forums" are tasked with enhancing the interdisciplinary competences of the ATLAS SIUs (e.g. Medic), and the "Project Teams" or monothematic workshops temporarily address the enhancement of professional skills and procedures relating to current problem areas (e.g. K9).

Detailed planning of the activities is made by the ATLAS Management Board in close cooperation with AEB/ASO as well as the responsible heads of the Expert Groups, Forums and Project Teams. All activities are coordinated with the Commanders during an ATLAS Commanders Forum (ACF). The heads of the Expert Groups, Forums and Project Teams are responsible for the preparation, execution and evaluation of the various events within the particular work package and supported by AEB/ASO.

Activity reports are submitted on a regular basis in order to ensure that all necessary phases/objectives are taken into account and implemented. Deviations from the plans are acceptable only if they are substantiated and justified and if the overall success of the project is not put at risk.

2.3. European Added Value: European dimension of the project and impact on EU scale

To illustrate the European dimension of the activities, please state which countries will be directly involved in the project activities? Where will the activities take place? Which countries will directly and indirectly benefit from the project?

The project promotes effective European cross-border cooperation in combating violent crimes and terrorism and enhances crime prevention. At least 27 countries, or rather 38 Special Intervention Units within the European Union, will benefit directly from the ATLAS project:

- Sweden NI, Finland KARHU, Bulgaria SUCT, Hungary TEK, Spain UEI, Spain GEO, Slovakia LYNX COMMANDO, Latvia OMEGA, Estonia K-KOMMANDO, Lithuania ARAS, Poland BOA, Cyprus ERU/EAO, Czech-Republic URNA, Germany SEK BW, Germany GSG 9, Ireland ERU, Luxembourg USP, Romania BSIJ, Romania SIAS, Greece EKAM, Portugal GOE, Portugal GIOE, Malta RIU, Croatia SIU, The Netherlands DSI, Belgium DSU, France GIGN, France RAID, Italy GIS, Italy NOCS, Austria EKO Cobra, Slovenia RED PANTHER, Norway DELTA, Switzerland SIU, Iceland VIKING, Denmark AKS, N-Ireland PSNI, UK SCO 19
- Not eligible for funding since 2021, but are present as active ATLAS members: UK SCO19 / PSNI

In the short term, the network will enhance the ability of ATLAS Special Intervention Units by sharing best practice, experience and common development of specific tools.

In the medium term, the network will enable all ATLAS Special Intervention Units of the EU to enhance their operational readiness to launch joint operations across Europe.

In the long term, the experience gained can be used to support the EU missions in third countries, and hence to improve the implementation of the European Agenda on Security.

The proposed network activities will contribute to achieving the objectives of the EUROPOL strategy 2023 as well as the European Agenda on Security: deliver agile operational support, European policing solutions, be at the forefront of innovation and research for law enforcement, good governance and accountability, developing training and operational tactics within special theme groups, conducting joint training operations and subsequently establishing common platforms for training / tactics and equipment sharing.

Other than the ATLAS SIUs, all other regional law enforcement units tasked with special intervention duties (rapid response teams, SWAT teams, etc.), will also benefit from the ATLAS network due to the regular information exchange at a national level.

Countries directly involved / locations:

A) Management of the action:

- Chairperson and ATLAS Executive Bureau located in Slovakia 2021-2024
- ATLAS Commanders Meetings held most likely in Sweden (POLSPEC) and Spain
- Management Board Meeting held in Slovakia
(Participants from all ATLAS members are involved in the above-mentioned activities)
- Consultations by AEB staff
- ATLAS Strategy - 2 meetings, exercise

B) ATLAS members activities:

- EG ENTRY: activities will take place in: Germany
- EG AIRCRAFT: activities will take place in Italy
- EG BUILDING: activities will take place in Slovakia
- EG NAVAL: activities will take place in: Netherland, Germany, international waters
- EG TRANSPORT: activities will take place in: Spain
- Forum C4: activities will take place in Sweden, Austria, Netherlands
- Forum INNOVATION: activities will take place in: Austria, Netherlands, USA
- Forum NEGOTIATION: activities will take place in Sweden
- Forum SNIPER: activities will take place in Hungary
- Forum RAPID RESPONSE: activities will take place in Netherlands
- Forum MEDIC: activities will take place in Hungary
- Forum SILENT TEAM: activities will take place in France
- Project K9 WORKSHOP: activities will take place in Italy

2.4. Expected results, sustainability and long-term impact

Describe expected results of the implemented activities and their impact.

The ATLAS Network is a cooperation structure between European Special Interventions Units (SIUs) that allows and supports different training platforms, sharing of best practices in terms of proficiency and tactics, and providing support in operational activity.

The main priority for the year 2023 is to continue to hold meetings and organise joint trainings and exercises, whenever necessary, with a view to exchange experience, expertise and general, practical and technical information on dealing with a crisis situation. The accompanying challenges need special attention and preparation on all levels and areas of competence: interventions in urban areas, means of transportation and buildings are focal points, as are communication and negotiation skills. Joint trainings, workshops, courses and project groups form the methodical approach to increasing the readiness of involved units when handling possible terrorist attacks and incidents. Additionally, first aid work during active and on-going attacks needs to be developed and improved.

Although it is not planned in the budget for 2023, another priority is to maintain and develop the already established "ATLAS Centres of Excellence (CoE)". These structures will serve as institutions to provide standardised training and knowledge transfer for the ATLAS SIUs. Thus, the quality of the delivered training can be kept consistently at the highest level. At the same time, the number of target groups/participants can be increased. In line with these efforts, the SIU GIS from Italy will make necessary annual maintenance of the "CoE Aircraft" in Livorno/Italy and the SIU TEK from Hungary will run further medic courses in the "CoE

Medic" in Budapest/Hungary. SIU GSG9 from Germany will use the already procured basic equipment for further preparation of the "CoE Naval" in Germany and SIU Lynx Commando from Slovakia will also make use of already procured basic equipment for the preparation of the "CoE Building" in Slovakia/Komárno.

Along with this structure, a dedicated programme for "pooling & sharing" of special equipment is already in use such as the project for inland water transport/security.

Innovation forum defined detailed needs for the future needs of Artificial Intelligence in SIU operations. Therefore, the pooling & sharing programme is planned to be extended through the innovation of a 4-legged robot shared on a regular basis within the network to allow all ATLAS SIUs access to state-of-the-art technologies.

Deliverables of different ATLAS Aircraft workshops have shown that there is a demand for development of lightweight, adjustable and also durable ladders that can be used during SILENT TEAM tactics at different heights. To develop a prototype the CoE Aircraft will serve as a knowledge base to utilise experience gained during specialized workshops. Furthermore, this prototype can be shared as part of the pooling & sharing project.

In addition as further outcome of ATLAS Aircraft training activities in 2021 and based on the comparison of different airplane entry methods the EG Aircraft urged the need for an effective mechanical breaching tool available at strategic locations in different member states over Europe.

The knowledge and improvements gained in different areas will directly increase the operational and training capabilities of ATLAS SIUs, which in turn will straight away contribute to a better security of EU citizens in general and during special interventions.

Detailed planning of the activities is made by the ATLAS Management Board in close cooperation with AEB/ASO as well as by the responsible heads of the Expert Groups, Forums and Project Teams. All activities are coordinated by the Commanders during ATLAS Commanders Forums (ACF). The heads of the Expert Groups, Forums and Project Teams are responsible for preparing, executing and evaluating the different events within the particular work package.

Activity reports, together with an agenda and meeting minutes, will be submitted on a regular basis to ensure that all necessary steps/objectives are considered and implemented. Deviations from the plans are acceptable only if they are substantiated and justified and if the overall success of the project is not put at risk.

Although the ATLAS network is independent, it considers the actual EU Terrorism Situation & Trend Report as one of the guiding elements to follow trends that have direct influence on ATLAS training and projects.

Moreover, there are terror scenarios that no MS is able to manage alone (for example, a mass hostage situation in tactically unfavourable facility or transport mean). Cooperation and joint operations are essential for success in such scenarios. There is the need to ensure interoperability, to standardise procedures and to enhance the trust between units. Operations in Belgium, Munich, Hamburg, Austria, Hungary and Greece proved the ability of ATLAS SIUs to assist each other. This makes it more important to continue joint exercises, trainings and workshops while applying a multinational approach.

The goal is to ensure professional counter-terrorism actions on the highest possible level in each EU MS.

The further improvement of all these factors for a successful cooperation is directly reflected by the European Agenda on Security in the area of "increased operational cooperation between networks and supporting mutual actions".

In October 2018, the cooperation agreement "Terms of Reference for the cooperation

between EUROPOL and the ATLAS Network" was signed. According to that, the setup of the ATLAS Support Office (ASO) directly attached to the Head of ECTC, started on 1st of November 2018 with one Seconded National Expert (SNE). Since 01. January 2021 one Temporary Agent (TA) is appointed as "Head of the ASO" supported by one SNE since 01. October 2021. That means that the ASO currently consist of 1 TA and 1 SNE.

The ASO has been the main interface of ATLAS with EUROPOL, provides support in the preparation/implementation of the "ATLAS Annual Work Program", promotes the development of secure communication platforms, and ensures strategic and operational support as well as the promotion of ATLAS activities via public relation channels. Mutual synergy effects in the cooperation with different Network partners and relevant departments have already been achieved. The AEB and ASO are cooperating in a very close manner, which was clearly stated in the joint working group (EUROPOL – ATLAS) outcome and unanimously supported by all ATLAS commanders, EUROPOL and EU Commission. This cooperation relieved the ATLAS Network already from considerable amount of work strain and ensures smooth and flawless processes (presidency handover, international cooperation, cooperation with other networks, mid- and long-term planning, etc.).

The activities of the ATLAS Network will contribute significantly to the strengthening of the capabilities and capacities of SIUs all over the EU, as well as to the performance increase in multinational operations against terror attacks. One of the main goals of ATLAS Network is to bring each counter-terrorist unit to the same and highest possible level of professionalism through enhanced cooperation and support.

2.5 Timing

2.5.1 Duration:

Specify the maximum total duration of the action

The action will run for **12** months.

2.5.2 Starting date:

The Applicant requests (at their own risk) to start the project prior to the signature of the grant agreement or notification of the grant decision. In any case the starting date of the project cannot be before the date of submission of the Application

The action is expected to start on **01 April 2023** (day/month/year)

Please justify and demonstrate added value if starting date prior to signature of the grant agreement:

n/a

ATLAS BUDGET 2023



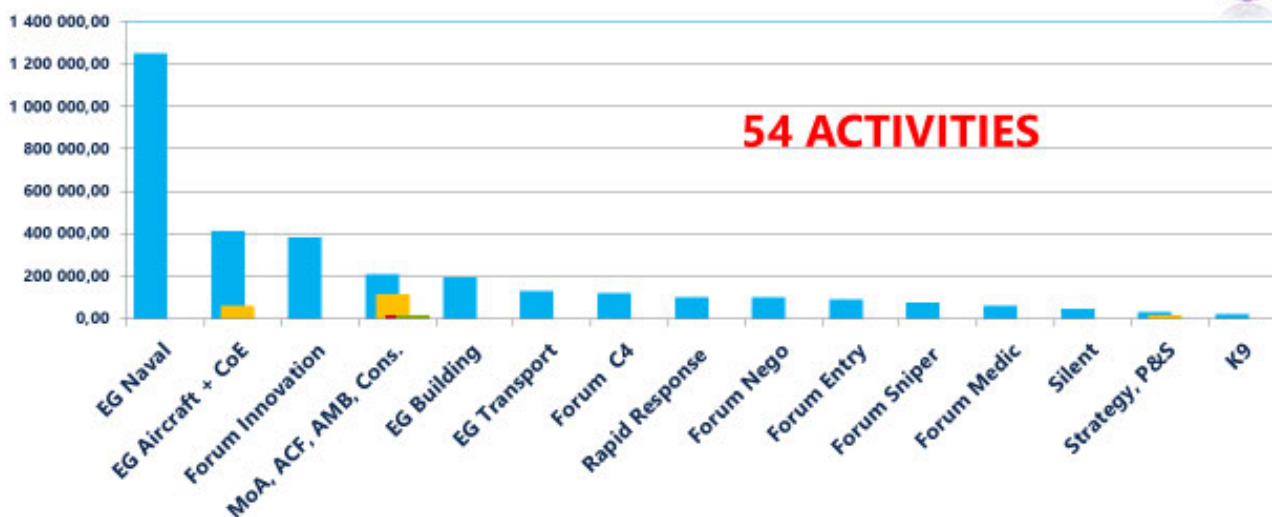
- **ATLAS Grant 2023:** financed by Europol (95%), Applicant – LYNX (5%)
- **EU contribution:** EUR 3.73 million (95%)
- **LYNX contribution:** EUR 196.400 (5%)
- **Duration:** **01. April 2023 – 31. March 2024**
- **13 affiliated entities:** (EKO Cobra, KARHU, GIGN, GSG 9, SEK BW, TEK, ERU, GIS, NOCS, USP, DSI, GEO, NI)
- **Hotel/DSA rates:** reduced by **20%**



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ATLAS BUDGET 2023 - OVERVIEW



EU contribution: € 3.73 million, LYNX contribution: € 196.400



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ATLAS BUDGET 2023 – OVERVIEW (€)



	2023	ACTIVITIES
EG BUILDING	195 150,00 €	Building Training
EG NAVAL	146 535,60 € + 96 570 € + 1 036 671,40	RHIB training + Ttex + Rapid Response training
EG TRANSPORT	137 311,20€	Prep. Meeting, Training, Wrap-up
EG AIRCRAFT + CoE	418 078,80€ + 88 000,00 €	Kick-off, Training, Wrap-up, + CoE/pooling & sharing



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ATLAS BUDGET 2023 – OVERVIEW (€)



	2023	ACTIVITIES
Forum ENTRY	89 755,20 €	Steering group meeting, Seminar, Steering group meeting II.
Forum MEDIC	65 124,00 €	Steering meeting, ITMP, METC.
Forum SNIPER	81 036,80 €	Kick-off, Workshop, Wrap-up.
Forum C4	130 928,40 €	Kick-off, Prep. Meeting I., Prep. Meeting II., Exercise, Wrap-up.
Forum NEGOT	107 161,20 €	Kick-off, Prep. Meeting, Training Course, Wrap-up.



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ATLAS BUDGET 2023 - OVERVIEW (€)



	2023	ACTIVITIES
Forum INNOVATION	388 296,80 €	Prep. Meeting , Workshop I., Workshop II., Pooling & Sharing - Robotics Project.
Forum RAPID RESPONSE	107 808,80 €	Prep. Meeting, Workshop, Wrap-up.
Forum SILENT Team	51 579,80 €	Prep. Meeting, Workshop, Wrap-up.
Project K9	22 687,80 €	Prep. Meeting, Workshop.
EPE/IT	31 321,20 €	Steering group meeting, Seminar.
ACF	167 440,00 €	ACF I. & POLSPEC, ACF II.
AMB	18 872,00 €	AMB I., AMB II.
Management of Action + Strategy	177 013,20 €	Strategy+Pooling & Sharing, Consultations, Staff costs AEB etc.



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ATLAS BUDGET 2023 - OVERVIEW (€)



	UNIT	AMOUNT
Audit expenses	LYNX	12 000,00.- €
	DSI	56 000,00.- €
	EKO Cobra	16 000,00.- €
	GEO	4 000,00.- €
	GIS	16 000,00.- €
	GSG 9	4 000,00.- €
	NI	4 000,00.- €
	TEK	4 000,00.- €
	TOTAL	116 000,00.- €



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