



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)  
Department A – COSME, H2020 SME and EMFF  
**Unit A1 - COSME**

Brussels,  
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**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**Subject: Letter of support for the implementation of the "Study on the contribution of the defence sector to Regional Development through the European Structural and Investment Funds" (EASME/2019/OP/0015)**

The European Commission, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), has commissioned Ecorys to carry out a study that will provide an overview on how and to what extent defence-related and dual use activities have been integrated in the framework of the EU's Cohesion Policy for the programming period 2014-2020 ("*Study on the contribution of the defence sector to Regional Development through the European Structural and Investment Funds*"). The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), acting under the powers delegated by the European Commission, awarded the contract and will act as the contracting authority for the project.

The overall objective of the Study is to give an overview of the extent to which these funds have been used for defence-related and dual use activities in the framework of the EU's Cohesion Policy for the ongoing 2014-2020 period and the potential under the future 2021-2027 programming period. The focus will be on the European Regional Development Fund, including the European Territorial Cooperation, as well as the European Social Fund.

This Study will also provide empirical evidence to highlight the value of investing in defence-related activities, map projects linked to dual use and defence-related activities available at transnational, national or regional/local level co-financed by the ESIF during the period 2014-2020. It will also identify and analyse a series of good practice projects supported under the European Structural and Investment Funds during the period 2014-2020. Furthermore, it will present the state of play and analyse how defence-related and dual use activities have been integrated into the EU's Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020. The Study will also explore the potential for further promoting the access to the Cohesion Policy of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, in support of dual use and defence related activities. Finally, it will provide recommendations on how this should be achieved.

**Through this letter I kindly invite you to assist the project team, and their appointed experts, in any way possible, to share your knowledge and experience as well as facilitate contact with any stakeholders that may be relevant for their work.**

During the process, Ecorys will interview selected stakeholders, actors, beneficiaries and Managing Authorities directly or indirectly linked to the subject at stake. Accordingly, the members of the research team will contact stakeholders in order to carry out the above

mentioned interviews or to collect available data from the Managing Authorities or other organisations, whenever this data is not immediately available to the European Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Project Co-ordinator in Ecorys for any further information about this initiative: Javier Fernández López, Email: [Javier.fernandez@ecorys.com](mailto:Javier.fernandez@ecorys.com), tel. +34 91 5980851.

For additional information from the European Commission (DG DEFIS), please contact Mr Paul ANCIAUX, Email: [Paul.ANCIAUX@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Paul.ANCIAUX@ec.europa.eu) or Mrs Elektra.TSIGARIDAS, Email: [Elektra.TSIGARIDAS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Elektra.TSIGARIDAS@ec.europa.eu)

I thank you in advance for the valuable time you dedicate to supporting our work.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)  
Natalia Martinez Páramo  
Head of Unit