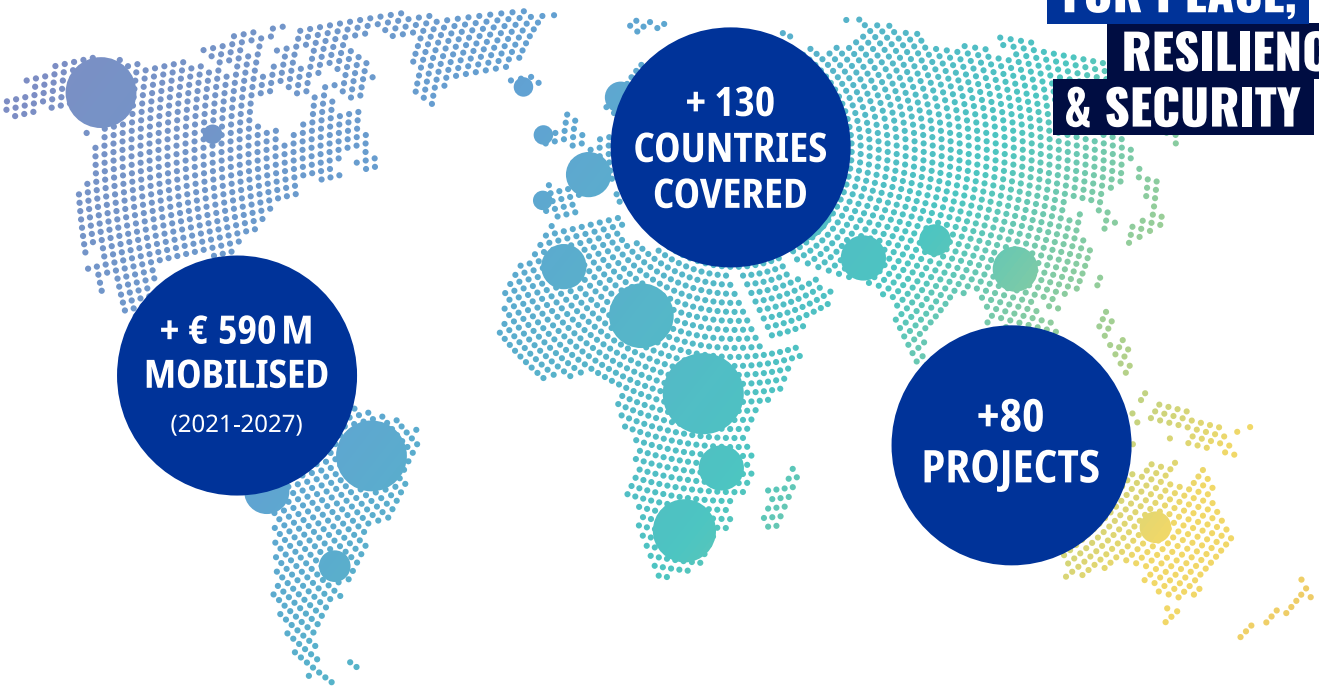
THE EU GLOBAL THREATS PROGRAMME

PARTNERING FOR PEACE, RESILIENCE & SECURITY



Context

In today's world, threats don't stop at borders. Criminal networks, cyber risks, CBRN threats, environmental degradation and violent extremism affect communities across regions, and no country can face them alone. Without action, these threats can spark or fuel conflict, weaken institutions and undermine global peace.

The **EU Global Threats programme** responds to this reality. It complements national, bilateral and regional efforts by taking a global approach, connecting threats across regions and linking issues that are often addressed in silos. This integrated approach is the programme's added value: **strengthening a global Europe that tackles threats to the EU's internal security and its partners around the world.**

The EU Global Threats programme is funded and managed by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments.
It is part of the Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention thematic pillar of the NDICI-Global Europe instrument.

Purpose and approach

The EU Global Threats programme is one of the EU's main tools to tackle major security threats around the world, including terrorism, CBRN risks, organised crime, cyberattacks, threats to maritime security, and growing security risks linked to climate change.

Our work complements **ProtectEU**, the new European Internal Security Strategy, recognising that addressing global and transregional threats is essential to safeguarding security at home.

Through a wide range of projects, **we help countries and communities prevent and tackle security challenges, strengthen institutions and promote lasting stability.**

Our approach is integrated and people-centred. We recognise that long-term security cannot be achieved without public trust, respect for human rights, gender eqauality, and the protection of vulnerable communities. With a strong global presence and trusted partnerships, we work to create lasting impact where it's needed most.

Discover our global action on the **EU Global Threats programme website**: global-threats.ec.europa.eu.

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Five threat areas

The work of the EU Global Threats programme focuses on five priority threat areas where EU support can make a real difference.

	WHAT THIS MEANS	WHAT THE EU IS DOING
1 **Countering terrorism and violent extremism**	**Terrorism and violent extremism as major threats to global and regional stability.** Terrorist groups are using digital tools, artificial intelligence and cryptocurrencies to raise and launder money, and plan attacks. Online radicalisation is also increasing to spread propaganda and increase recruitment.	The EU works with partner countries and organisations to strengthen prevention, build resilience and provide rapid assistance. This includes supporting them in identifying and addressing the root causes of radicalisation, supporting local communities, and improving the ability to detect and stop new threats.
2 **Mitigating CBRN risks**	**In a globalised world, CBRN risks can quickly cross borders and escalate.** Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats are becoming more complex due to geopolitical tensions, new technologies, and the fact that many materials have both civilian and military uses. Their widespread availability makes strong prevention, detection and response systems even more urgent.	Through flagship initiatives, such as the **CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative** and the **EU P2P Export Control Programme**, the EU partners with countries to strengthen their capabilities to effectively respond to risks related to CBRN materials, agents and installations, while promoting a culture of safety and responsible science.
3 **Fighting organised crime**	**Organised crime is becoming more connected, violent and global.** Criminal networks exploit global trade routes, weak governance, and digital technologies to move illicit goods and services across borders. These include drugs, small arms and light weapons, counterfeit products, illegal mining, and wildlife crime. Many groups operate across several illegal markets at once, spreading risk and boosting profits.	To tackle this evolving threat, the EU works with partners worldwide to disrupt criminal flows, close down enabling systems, and support police and justice systems with the tools they need to fight organised crime in all its forms.
4 **Securing critical infrastructure**	**Protecting critical infrastructure, on land, at sea, and online.** Critical infrastructure, both physical and digital, is under growing threat in an increasingly unstable world. Maritime routes, essential for global trade and connectivity, face risks such as piracy, trafficking, and environmental damage. At the same time, the world's digital infrastructure is under constant pressure from cyberattacks.	The EU works with partners to boost maritime security, support legal trade, and disrupt criminal activity along key sea routes. Through public-private cooperation and EU-funded projects, we invest in training, innovation, and stronger defences, ensuring Europe remains a global leader in cybersecurity.
5 **Advancing climate security**	**Turning climate change risks to security into peace and resilience.** Climate change is the ultimate threat multiplier in fragile contexts, while reshaping global security. In vulnerable areas, these stresses can fuel conflict, drive people from their homes, and weaken already unstable systems, communities, and improving the ability to detect and stop new threats.	The EU works with partner countries and organisations to tackle these risks through a combined approach, linking climate mitigation and adaptation with conflict prevention, resilience-building, and inclusive governance.

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