Scaling Up secure Processing, Anonymization and generation of Health Data for EU cross border collaborative research and Innovation

SECURED Open Call

Short Evaluation Report – Open Call Winners

Dissemination Level	P - Public

This document is published in the context of and for the objectives of the SECURED project. The SECURED project has been financially supported by the European Union through the HORIZON-HLTH-2022-IND-13 (HORIZON-RIA) under Grant Agreement No.101095717.

Document Information

Delivery Date	4/12/2024
No. pages	9
Version | Status	Preliminary
Leader	CEF
Internal Reviewer #1	N/A
Internal Reviewer #2	N/A
Dissemination Level	P – Public
Due Date	4/12/2024

Table of Contents

Contents

1. General Information

Following the public announcement (Announcement of the SECURED Open Call[1]), the SECURED Open Call received a total of **eleven (11) proposals** from organizations, consortia, and individual applicants across Europe, showcasing innovative ideas for advancing privacy-preserving technologies in healthcare. The evaluation focused on their alignment with the SECURED project's overarching goal of enhancing secure and unbiased artificial intelligence and data analytics within the healthcare sector.

The Open Call attracted a diverse range of proposals, including SME-driven initiatives and academic research-focused submissions. The innovative use cases proposed—such as real-time tumor classification, telemonitoring for children, and privacy-compliant healthcare data sharing—highlight the relevance and importance of privacy-preserving technologies in modern healthcare.

Following a rigorous evaluation process, five (5) proposals were awarded funding and support to implement their projects. These selected initiatives are expected to make significant contributions to SECURED's mission and pave the way for scalable, privacy-preserving healthcare solutions.

2. Evaluation Procedure

The evaluation process for the SECURED Open Call was conducted with the utmost fairness, transparency, and adherence to the evaluation guidelines, which were announced through various publicity channels, including the project website.

2.1 Evaluators

An evaluation team consisting of four (4) internal and three (3) external evaluators was assembled to ensure a diverse and comprehensive review of all proposals. All evaluators adhered strictly to confidentiality agreements. In the event that there was a conflict of interest, the evaluator was assigned another proposal to evaluate. For the external evaluators, contracts were specifically drafted and signed with each individual.

Each of the 11 submitted proposals was evaluated by two (2) evaluators, providing an unbiased and balanced assessment.

2.2 Steps in the Evaluation Process

1. **Proposal submission:** The Open Call launched on 1st August 2024, and proposals were accepted until 31st October 2024 17.00 CET. Upon submission via a web form, all proposals underwent an initial eligibility

[1] SECURED website: Announcement of the SECURED Open Call: https://secured-project.eu/SECURED_open_call/

check to confirm compliance with the criteria outlined in the SECURED Open Call Guidelines. The exact submission time resulted from a timestamp generated from the webserver upon successful submission of the web form. Subsequently, this timestamp was recorded in an email sent to 3 different recipients.

2. **(Initial) Eligibility check:** Each proposal was checked based on the information completed in the relevant web form (generic eligibility, proposal eligibility, financial eligibility). All submitted proposals complied with the criteria of the submission process and were introduced into the evaluation process.

3. **Assignment of Evaluators:** Each proposal was assigned randomly to two (2) evaluators with expertise relevant to the proposal's focus. The mix of internal and external evaluators ensured a fair review process and balanced insights into each submission.

4. **Evaluation Criteria**: Based on the SECURED Open Call Guidelines for Applicants, proposals were scored across five (5) key criteria:
    - Alignment with SECURED's objectives;
    - Innovation in addressing privacy-preserving challenges;
    - Feasibility of the proposed implementation;
    - Impact on the healthcare sector and privacy-preserving technologies;
    - Resources and budget adequacy.

    Each criterion was scored on a 0 to 5 scale, and evaluators provided a justification for their scores based on the proposal's content.

5. **Scoring and Consolidation:** Scores from the two (2) evaluators assigned to each proposal were consolidated to generate a final score (average) per criterion. This allowed for a comprehensive assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal.

6. **Evaluation Reports**: Detailed evaluation reports for each proposal, including the consolidated comments and scores, are provided and sent to all candidates. These reports offer transparency into the evaluation process and provide constructive feedback to the applicants.

7. **Publicity of Open Call winners**: A summary of the results will be published on the project website, while detailed results will be sent via email to the participants.

2.3 Submitted Proposals

Based on the SECURED Open Call submission procedure, the following table (Table 1) presents the proposals submitted.

Table 1: Chronological overview of proposals submitted under the SECURED project, including applicants and their respective identification credentials, listed in order of submission. Proposals not funded are excluded to maintain confidentiality and protect intellectual property.

ID	Title of Proposal	Applicant
1	Proposal	Applicant
2	Robokid: AI-Based Crisis Simulation for Child Support Handlers	Kék Vonal Gyermekkrízis Alapítvány, Mihály Rámpay
3	Enhancing GDM Management Using Synthetic Data	ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
4	Proposal	Applicant
5	Proposal	Applicant
6	Proposal	Applicant
7	Proposal	Applicant
8	Proposal	Applicant
9	Securing AI Analytics of Cross-border Health Data Using Robust Encryption (seCURE)	University of Patras - Nicolas Sklavos
10	Advanced Healthcare Data Anonymization Platform (InviseeAI)	PRIVACT P.C.
11	Cancer Patient Synthetic Data Generation for Quality of Life (CaPSyDeL)	Care Across Ltd

2.4 Selection of Funded Proposals

The selection of funded proposals was conducted based on the ranking process outlined in the SECURED Open Call Guidelines. This process ensured that the selection was fair, transparent, and adhered strictly to predefined evaluation criteria and thresholds. In particular, upon the completion of the evaluation process, all proposals underwent ranking, resulting in a unified list based on their overall average score.

2.5 Tie-Breaking Rules

In cases where proposals shared the same overall ranking the following tie-breaking rules were applied in the specified order:

1. Impact (Criterion 2);
2. Innovation/Concept (Criterion 1);
3. Feasibility/Implementation (Criterion 3);
4. Alignment/Consortium Composition (Criterion 4);
5. Resource Allocation (Criterion 5).

3. Evaluation Results

3.1 Detailed Scores

Proposals evaluated based on aforementioned five (5) criteria. The following table (Table 2) summarizes the evaluation results.

Table 3: Summary of evaluation results for proposals assessed against five criteria, including scores and total rankings

ID	Title of Proposal	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	Score
10	Advanced Healthcare Data Anonymization Platform (InviseeAI)	5	4,5	3,5	5	5	**23**
3	Enhancing GDM Management Using Synthetic Data	4,5	4,5	4	4,5	4	**21,5**
9	Securing AI Analytics of Cross-border Health Data Using Robust Encryption (seCURE)	4,5	5	3,5	4	4	**21**
11	Cancer Patient Synthetic Data Generation for Quality of Life (CaPSyDeL)	4,5	4	4	4,5	3,5	**20,5**
2	Robokid: AI-Based Crisis Simulation for Child Support Handlers	4,5	4	3,5	4,5	4	**20,5**
6	Proposal	4,5	4	3,5	4,5	4	20,5
4	Proposal	Scores are presented for the proposals selected for funding, and one in the reserve list					
8	Proposal						
5	Proposal						
7	Proposal						
1	Proposal						

For the ranking of proposals with IDs 2, 11 and 6 having all total score of 20,5, the tie-breaking procedure was applied:

1. All three (3) proposals had the same score in criteria Impact (C2) and Innovation/Concept (C1);
2. Proposal ID 11 was selected as it scored higher on Feasibility/Implementation (C3) compared to the other two proposals;
3. Since proposals ID 2 and ID 6 remained tied even after applying the defined tie-break rules, priority was given to the proposal with a more balanced representation of women and men in the consortium, striving for a 50/50 distribution in alignment with H2022 guidelines on gender equality. Proposal 6 succeeded in this criterion, achieving 50% gender representation compared to Proposal 2, which had 25%.

3.2 SECURED Open Call Winners

Based on the consolidated scores and in line with the evaluation process, the following five (5) proposals were selected for funding:

1. Advanced Healthcare Data Anonymization Platform (InviseeAI) – PRIVACT P.C.
2. Enhancing GDM Management Using Synthetic Data – ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
3. Securing AI Analytics of Cross-border Health Data Using Robust Encryption (seCURE) – University of Patras
4. Robokid: AI-Based Crisis Simulation for Child Support Handlers – Kék Vonal Gyermekkrízis Alapítvány
5. Cancer Patient Synthetic Data Generation for Quality of Life (CaPSyDeL) – Care Across Ltd

These proposals demonstrated overall strong alignment with SECURED's objectives, high innovation, feasibility, impact potential and resource allocation, contributing to the project's goals of advancing privacy-preserving technologies in healthcare.

3.3 Reserve Proposal

As a result of the evaluation process:

- Proposal ID 6

was selected as a reserve candidate. Should a selected proposal be unable to proceed, Proposal 6 may be considered for funding. The proposal showed strong merit in alignment with SECURED's objectives and high innovation potential but was not included in the final selection due to the constraints of the available budget.