

The French contribution to the European ESIWA project

The Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia (ESIWA) project, launched by the European Union, enhances operational cooperation in the field of security between the European Union and its partners in Asia. ESIWA achieves the objective supported by France to see the European Union play the role of a reliable security player and partner in the Indo-Pacific, by organizing operational activities that meet partners' needs.

A project focused on priority security issues in the Indo-Pacific

ESIWA organizes cooperation activities in four thematic areas: maritime safety; cyber security; counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism; and crisis management (including hybrid threats).

Implemented jointly by Expertise France and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), ESIWA initially covered nine partner countries (India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines). Activities involving other countries or with a regional scope may also be organized.

The ambition for this new phase is to strengthen ownership of the program by all stakeholders and move beyond the donor/recipient logic in favor of a more partnership-based approach, which could result in the co-organization of activities for the benefit of third countries with certain partners.

A significant French contribution

After the success of this first phase, the project was renewed for three years as part of a second phase known as "ESIWA+" (2024-2027), with a budget of €9 million.

France has substantially increased its participation in the project with a total contribution estimated at nearly €2 million, including €750,000 in financial contributions and the provision by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate for Security and Defense Cooperation of two military cooperation officers in Hanoi and Jakarta to support the project. The EU and Germany are contributing €6 million and €2.25 million respectively.