

DRIVER+ Trial Process

Overview



DISCLAIMER: If you get pre-selected following the Call for Application, you will be invited to a solution demonstration event. At the event you will present and demonstrate your solution to the Trial committee, who will then select the most suitable solutions for the Trial.

This document is provided to you now in advance for your information, but it is only relevant for solution providers who have been selected to participate in the Trial after the solution demonstration event.



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Trial Process Overview

Dear potential solution provider,

We thank you for your interest in participating in the open Call for Application for the DRIVER+ **Trial**. To inform you about the upcoming process we assembled this document, but **please be aware that this only becomes relevant if the reviewers come to the conclusion that your solution fits to the designed Trial**.

The following document provides you with an overview of the process of the DRIVER+ Trials, as well as key information on the selection procedures for solutions. Please make yourself familiar with this information, as later process steps could influence choices at the beginning.

In case of questions or any other inquiries regarding the call, please feel free to contact us at:

solutionselectiongroup@projectdriver.eu

From open call to final selection

The Trial set-up is divided in several process parts, whose main features are listed below. Based on the initial review by Crisis Management practitioners in the Call for Application, the Trial committee will invite pre-selected solutions to a demonstration event. Solutions which fit into the Trial scenario will be finally selected to participate in the Dry-runs (rehearsal for the Trial). In and between these Dry-runs, all participants will work together on the integration of the solutions in the Trial. Solutions need to be able to provide the offered features, while the scenario is adapted to provide a test environment for the solutions.

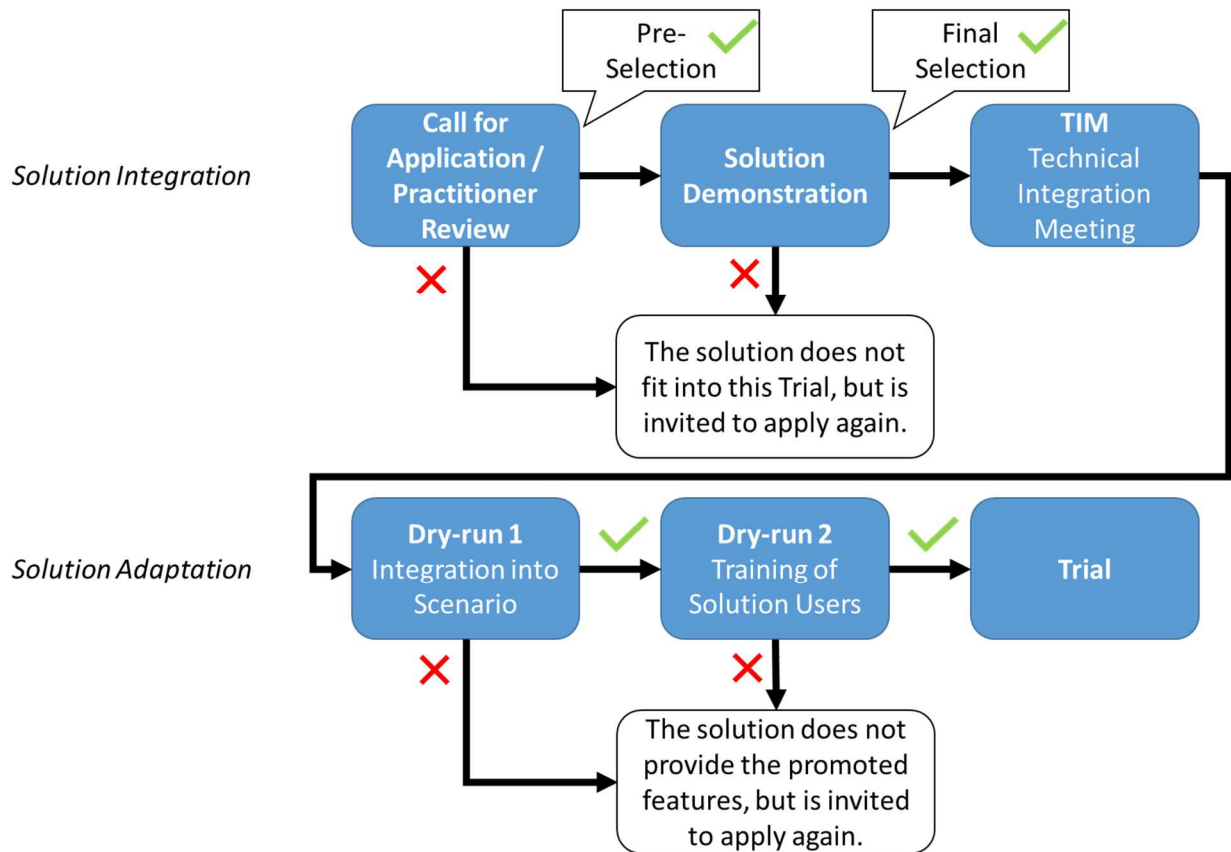


Figure 1.1 Trial Process Steps

Required forms and signatures

Your reply to the open call already indicates your willingness to participate. Nevertheless, when your solution is selected, we need to formalize our cooperation. This includes signing a Confirmation of Commitment (CoC), confirming your willingness and ability to invest the necessary efforts. In addition, since you are a solution provider external to the project, we will need to share insights in the project internal work, and therefore we ask to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

Preparation and Portfolio of Solutions

DRIVER+ is registering and storing all information about solutions in a central database, the Portfolio of Solutions (PoS). The PoS is a point of reference for interested Crisis Management organisations to find suitable solutions for specific tasks. During the project, it will be used to review already known solutions for possible candidates. At one point in time, we will open the PoS for a wider audience outside the project and provide access to the collected information also beyond the project lifetime.

You will be asked to provide an information package about your solution comprising a detailed description, possible application cases in crisis management and list of functionalities you offer. The inputs you provided during the Call for Application already are a first starting point and will be reused under your supervision.

Co-Creation with final selection of solutions

Now that the final solutions for a Trial are known, these solutions and the scenario need to be adapted to each other as good as possible.

Data collection plan

In order to assess the potential innovative value of your solutions, we will conduct some measurements on the usage of the solution during the Trial. What to measure and how best to do this, is described in a data collection plan. Your input is needed for this, as you know your solution best. Within the design of the Trial scenario we can take these aspects into account.

Test-bed integration

For some parts of the Trials it may be helpful to create a virtual environment. Therefore the Trial provides a realistic and safe test scenario together with experienced practitioners, who will use the solutions, and observers, who extract results according to the data collection plan. In addition, sometimes it may be helpful to support the data collection by technological tools. And finally, we want to facilitate a smooth integration of solutions without burdening the operational systems. Therefore, we create our own information sharing infrastructure, the Test-bed. In this Test-bed, we provide all components, technical and non-technical, to have a simulated crisis scenario in which the solution can be tested. It provides components to support the Trial in 3 ways where appropriate and/or needed:

- Data-exchange between solutions
- Connection to simulators providing a virtual crisis
- Control the crisis scenario and collect observations and data about what happens during the execution of the Trial.

Not every solution requires a deep technological integration with the Test-bed, but if you require or wish to exchange data with other solutions or your tool needs to receive data about the simulated crisis, it is advised to prepare your own data exchange capabilities and work jointly with the Trial team. Base adapters in Java, C#, TypeScript and a generic REST-interface are available for you to be configured for your solution. We will provide technical support during the Trial preparation starting right after the solution selection. In order to allow a proper integration a technical integration meeting (TIM), shortly after the final Solution selection is finished, will be held. A separate invitation will be sent to all final selected Solution providers.

Dry-run Checkpoints

The Dry-runs are the rehearsals of the Trial and serve as checkpoints in the Trial preparation process. They are used to measure and verify that scenario, Test-bed and solutions are combined logically to have a successful Trial.

Dry-run 1

Dry-run 1 will focus on the interoperability of your solution and the Test-bed, facilitating the collection and exchange of information. If it turns out to be impossible to adequately integrate a solution with the Test-bed, this solution may be excluded from the Trial. Minor issues can be solved towards Dry-Run 2.

Dry-run 2

Dry-run 2 is the general rehearsal to check if the scenario is running as planned, and the solutions and Test-bed are operating as expected. This involves the active participation of Crisis Management practitioners. You are requested to provide a short, practical hands-on training for these practitioners, which may come from various countries. In case of serious issues that cannot be solved, it may be decided to exclude a solution from the Trial.

Budget and cost reimbursement

Travel and accommodation costs for your participation to the Trial activities will be reimbursed by the DRIVER+ project. Prior to your first participation you will receive the respective guidelines.

We have also reserved budget for additional reimbursement (e.g. for manpower) enabling you to participate in the Trial. However, it is important to keep in mind that DRIVER+ is a research project with a limited budget, which means that each expense must be reasonable, well-motivated and justified. This is important both for us to remain within project budget, and for the EC to be able to approve the costs upon reporting. Requests for this reimbursement will therefore be evaluated case by case.

Collaborating to achieve a win-win situation

The DRIVER+ project is not looking at purchasing off the shelf products and services, but rather we are seeking for co-creation and working jointly with the best possible solution providers, from within as well as from outside the consortium. For this we want to create a space to trial and evaluate solutions in a realistic and secure environment. This collaboration should bring benefits not only for the project but also for the solution providers. These benefits are the direct interaction with dedicated Crisis Management practitioners, an increased visibility through dissemination and communication of the DRIVER+ Trials, the introduction of your organization and solution to an EU-wide practitioner community, the inclusion of your solution in our Portfolio of Solutions. And, last but not least, the opportunity to learn about current gaps in Crisis Management to support future developments.

Trial Schedule

General Trial Timeline

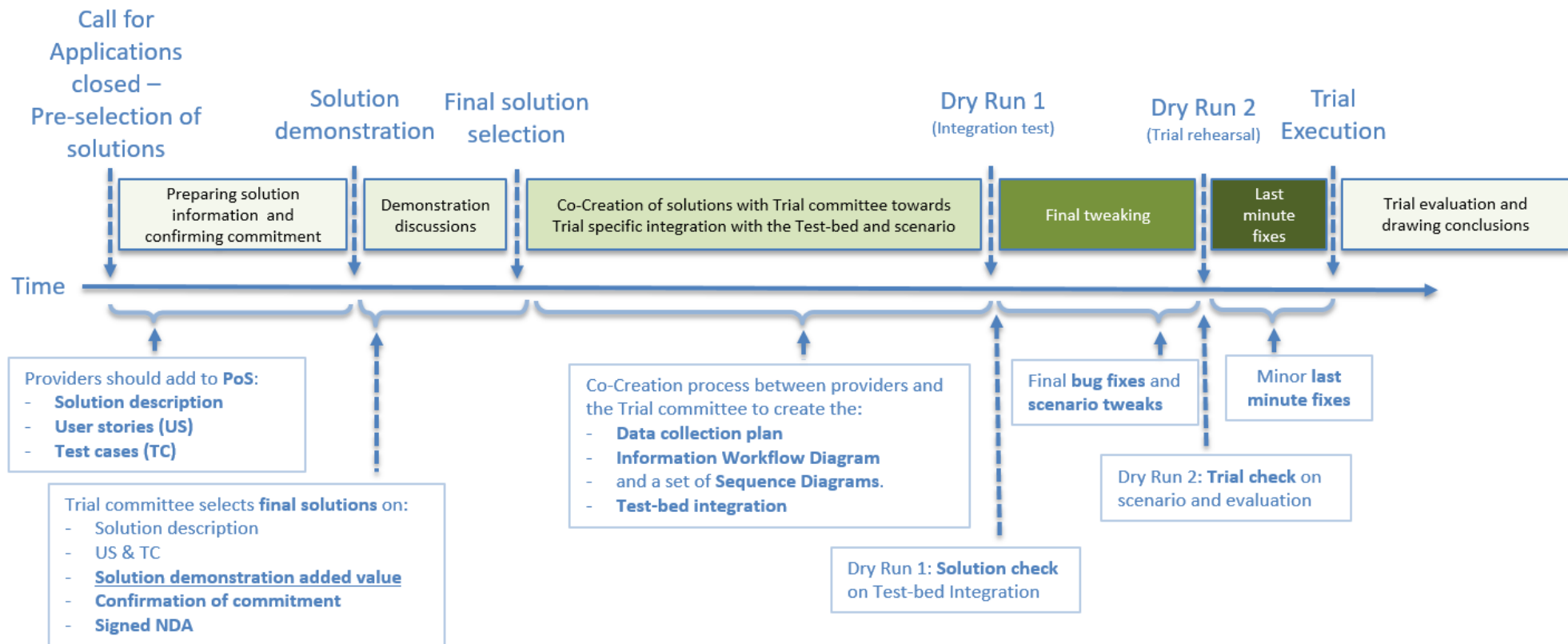


Figure 1.2 General Trial Timeline