

# A dual-use research & innovation framework for Europe from CESAER

## Why binary classification fails

Binary classification ('yes/no') is appropriate for legal compliance, e.g. export control rules.

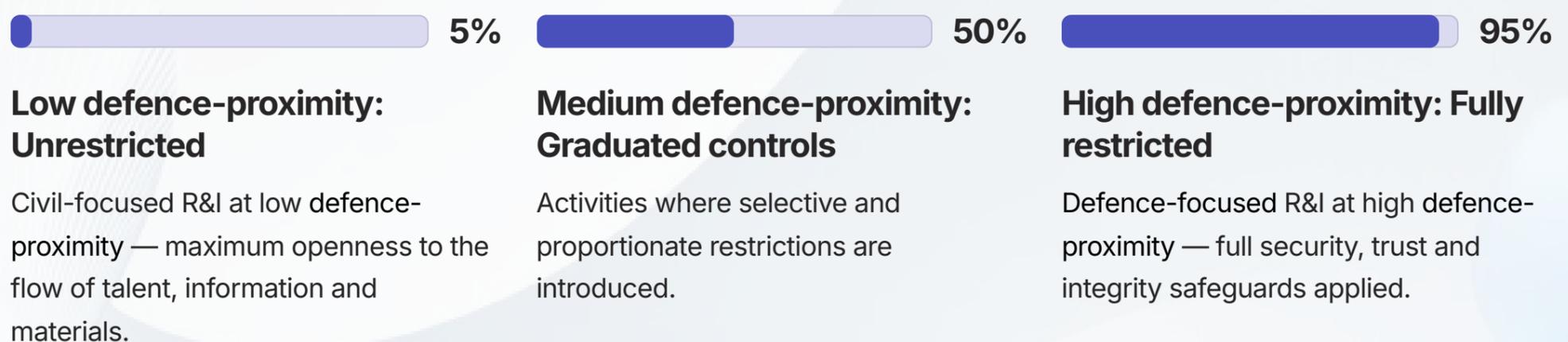
However, binary logic around 'dual-use potential' is not suitable for designing and governing research and innovation programmes as all advanced technologies in strategic domains carry some degree of defence relevance; the relevant question is therefore one of degree, not kind.

## The right way forward: A spectrum principle

Operational experience from institutions working across the full **civil → resilience → safety → security → defence** continuum confirms that a degree-based framework—a **spectrum of defence-relevance**—is practical and effective.

This approach allows restrictions to be introduced proportionately.

Below are hypothetical examples using percentages for illustrative purposes. In practice, such percentages are rarely applied; decisions are typically expert-driven, based on the nature of the research, its context and partners involved, and determine the type and level of restrictions required.



**Key design principle:** A defence-proximity framework, grounded in operational experience across the full civil-to-defence continuum, determines when and how restrictions are introduced — not abstract notions of 'dual-use potential'.

**Implications for EU funding to maximise excellence, speed and integrity** across civil-focused and defence-oriented R&I:

**What FP10 should fund:** Civil-focused R&I at low levels of defence proximity, where activities remain open, excellence-driven and not oriented toward defence integration.

**What EDF should fund:** R&I at higher levels of defence proximity, where defence integration becomes explicit and defence-specific governance and restrictions appropriately apply.

**Transition from FP10 to EDF:** When defence relevance increases beyond the lowest levels, based on the nature of the R&I, its context and partners involved.