

Call for applications

for professional independent evaluators

interested in supporting the assessment of the project proposals submitted in the framework of the INTERREG V B Adriatic-Ionian first call for proposals

The INTERREG V B Adriatic-Ionian programme (ADRION) is one of the 15 transnational programme of the programming period 2014-2020 and has been established on the legal framework of the ESI Funds.

The ADRION strategic programme document (Cooperation Programme) was approved by the European Commission on 20 October 2015 (Decision C(2015)7147).

The ADRION overall objective is to act as a policy driver and governance innovator fostering European integration among Partner States (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia), taking advantage from the rich natural, cultural and human resources primarily surrounding the Adriatic and Ionian Sea basin and covering an important terrestrial surface as well and enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Programme area.

It includes a wide transnational area with more than 70 million inhabitants, and has distinct physical, environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics. Hence, it addresses all three dimensions of sustainability, including social, economic and environmental aspects but also institutional elements.

The ADRION Programme Priority Axes (Innovative and smart region; Sustainable region; Connected Region) encompass a wide range of themes to be tackled through a wide array of instruments and possible actions, reflecting the heterogeneity of the programme area and its diverse needs. Specific information on the specific objectives, expected results, indicative actions to be supported, indicative types of beneficiaries and targets groups is available in the Cooperation Programme.

As the ADRION programme area coincides with the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region - EUSAIR, the design of the ADRION Programme strategy has been closely aligned to its pillars.

The Programme is co-financed by the European Union - ERDF and IPA II Funds. Further information can be found in the following link: <http://www.adrioninterreg.eu/>.

The programme language is English.

The first call for proposals was open to the following Programme Priority Axes and Specific Objectives, summarised below:

Priority Axis 1: Innovative and Smart Region:

Specific Objective 1.1: Support the development of a regional innovation system for the Adriatic-Ionian area.

Priority Axis 2: Sustainable region:

Specific Objective 2.1: Promote the sustainable valorisation and preservation of natural and cultural assets as growth assets in the Adriatic-Ionian area;

Specific Objective 2.2: Enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian area;

Priority Axis 3: Connected region:

Specific Objective 3.1: Enhance capacity for integrated transport and mobility services and multimodality in the Adriatic Ionian area.

Under the terms of this call, a project proposal must focus on one Priority Axis and one programme Specific Objective only.

Beneficiaries and target groups include public authorities, agencies, international organizations, research organisations, (public) service providers, higher education institutions, education/training centres, schools, business support organisations, interest groups including NGOs and cultural/citizens organisations, enterprises (including SMEs), natural heritage and green infrastructure management organisations, infrastructure and public service providers as well as other institutions which are affected by the thematic priorities concerned.

Emilia-Romagna Region has been endorsed as Managing Authority (MA) of the ADRION Programme and ERVET SpA, the in-house company of the Emilia-Romagna Region ruled by the Regional law LR n. 25/1993, has been assigned with the role of hosting the Joint Secretariat (JS).

a) Overall goal

The present call intends to facilitate ERVET SpA in the identification of experts with skills not available within its structure; in particular, ERVET SpA intends to set up a roster of independent evaluators in charge of supporting the JS in appraising the project proposals received in the framework of the first call for proposals.

b) Type and object of the assignment

Type: Professional assignment (for natural persons);

Subject: Evaluation of eligible project proposals submitted in the framework of ADRION first call for proposals according to the methodology defined by the Programme in Annex 1 - *Methodological approach for the assessment of the project proposals and tasks of the independent evaluators.*

Remuneration: The fee for the assessment of one project proposal is of EUR 400,00 VAT included; the fee is of EUR 200,00 VAT included if the proposal has been assessed only according to its strategic requirements (see Annex 1). One expert may receive more than one project proposal to be assessed (up to a maximum of 50 project proposals - EUR 20.000,00 VAT included).

Travel and accommodation costs (if actually occurred) for attending a kick off meeting in Bologna (Italy) shall be reimbursed by ERVET up to EUR 300,00 upon submission of relevant documentation.

Duration: 13/06/2016 – 30/06/2017

c) Required skills and experience

The experienced individuals (thematic experts, professional consultants, academic researchers, practitioners) who will be part of the independent evaluators' team are expected to have a high level of professional experience in one or more of the thematic fields covered by the Programme's Priority Axes and the related Specific Objectives.

In particular the expert shall:

- Have a university degree;
- Have at least five years of professional experience after the university degree acquired in positions related up to 2 Specific Objectives;
- Have a good understanding of the Adriatic Ionian cooperation area and its challenges;
- Have a good understanding of Cohesion Policy and European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) with a focus on transnational cooperation and/or international cooperation;
- Have a proven track record in similar work (i.e.: assessing applications of ETC or applications under programmes directly managed by the European Commission or international funding programmes, and of applying scoring system and making recommendations for selection);
- Be independent from projects partners and/or future project implementation;
- Be fluent in speaking, reading and writing in English (at least C1 level or equivalent);
- Be computer literate.

d) Selection criteria

Interested experts who fulfil the above-described requirements should submit their application according to the procedure described in letter e).

Only those candidates who meet the criteria listed under letter c) shall be included in the programme roster. Candidates skills' shall be considered only with regard to the selected Specific Objective(s).

Only those candidates who meet the criteria set out under letter c) will be included in the programme roster. The candidature is evaluated in relation to the two Specific Objectives chosen by the candidate only.

The evaluation of compliance with the criteria foreseen point c), will be done by ERVET in cooperation with ADRION MA and JS.

The successful experts will be informed about their inclusion in the ADRION's roster for the assessment of project proposals. Experts will be included in the roster for the entire programming period 2014-2020.

However, it shall be noted that the inclusion in the ADRION experts' roster does not guarantee the selection and appointment for the assessment of project proposals.

Interested experts can indicate maximum 2 out of the 4 programme Specific Objectives.

The number of independent evaluators to be recruited is of at least one per Specific Objective as listed in the announcement of the first Call for proposals.

The final decision concerning the number of independent evaluators selected for each Specific Objective will be taken after the finalization of the admissibility and eligibility checks, when the number of project applications for each topic to be assessed will be known.

e) Application and selection procedure

Experts interested in applying in the framework of the present Call for Applications shall submit the following:

- The filled-in Application provided by the Programme, part of the present Call for Application (Annex 2);
- Copy of a valid identity document.

Applications shall be sent to the following e-mail address: adrion_calls@ervet.it within the following deadline: **13 May 2016, h: 13:00 (Bologna time)**.

Applications submitted after this date will be considered only for the assessment of the future calls for proposals. The application will be rejected if it is incomplete, or provided in other languages than English, or if the copy of a valid identity document is missing.

f) Fulfilment of obligations before the signature of the contract

Before the signature of the contract the independent evaluator shall have to:

- Subscribe a declaration of impartiality and confidentiality;
- Submit his/her CV in EUROPASS format;
- For EU citizens, provide a declaration, according to the Italian Law, D.P.R. 445/2000 with regard to:
 - Having the citizenship(s) of a EU country;

- Having performed military/civil service obligations imposed by the applicable laws (if applicable);
- Enjoying full rights as a citizen;
- Not having not been convicted of any criminal offence and not having criminal case pending;
- For non-EU citizens, provide a declaration, according to the Italian Law, D.P.R. 445/2000 with regard to:
 - Having the citizenship(s) certification;
 - Having performed military/civil service obligations imposed by the applicable laws (if applicable);
 - Enjoying full rights as a citizen;
 - Not having been convicted of any criminal offence and not having criminal case pending.

ERVET will reserve the right to control the truthfulness of the declaration and of the sent documents by the relevant authorities.