

Call for applications

for State Aid evaluators to support the assessment of the project proposals submitted in the framework of the Interreg V B– Adriatic-Ionian – ADRION.

The Interreg V-B Adriatic-Ionian programme (ADRION) is one of the 15 transnational programmes 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 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 the first call of the Programme, 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 State Aid evaluators in charge of supporting the JS in appraising the project proposals received /will be received in the framework of the first call for proposals and the following one(s). The methodological approach for the assessment of the project proposals and tasks of the independent evaluators are provided in Annex 1.

b) Type and object of the assignment

Type: Professional assignment (for natural persons).

Subject: State Aid evaluation (use of *de minimis*) of project proposals submitted in the framework of ADRION.

Remuneration: The fee for the assessment of one project proposal is of EUR 300,00 VAT included. One expert may receive more than one project proposal to be assessed (up to a maximum of 66 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 of contract: 3 months.

c) Required skills and experience

The ADRION Programme is looking for experienced State Aid experts with the following qualifications and experience:

- university degree;

- at least 5 years of professional experience, following the award of the university degree, in State Aid discipline in one or more of the Specific Objectives listed above as well as knowledge of judgments provided by the European Court of Justice;
- experience in the application of the State Aid discipline preferably in European Regional Development Fund with a focus on European Territorial Cooperation;
- excellent analytical and judgment skills;
- fluent in speaking, reading and writing in English;
- computer literate.

d) Selection criteria

Interested experts who fulfil the above-described requirements shall 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.

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

The selected experts shall be informed about their inclusion in the ADRION's roster for the assessment of project proposals. Experts shall 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.

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);
- CV in Europass format;
- Copy of a valid identity document.

Applications shall be sent to the following e-mail address: adrion_calls@ervet.it within the following deadline: **7th April 2017, h: 13:00 (CET time)**.

Applications submitted after this date shall be considered only for the assessment of the future calls for proposals. The application shall 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 updated 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 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.