



---

## SCHOLARSHIP CaLL

Project: "Food4Health"

Selection of n.30 participants to the training course:  
*"Digital skills enhancement in green & blue economy"*

**Reference Code: Ref. 70/2022/SCHOLARSHIP/FOOD4HEALTH**

***Date of publication: 12/12/2022***

***Deadline for application: 31/01/2023***

***Position: Scholarship***

***Duty station: Italy / CIHEAM Bari or Tricase outpost***

***Duration of assignment: 4 months training course***

***Starting period: March 2023***

***Project title: "Food4Health" (CUP C68H19000260007)***

### **1. The general objective of the initiative**

CIHEAM Bari intends to select 30 participants, graduates and nearly graduating students (enrolled in the final year of a bachelor's degree) from the target area (Puglia (IT), Molise (IT), Albania, Montenegro), to attend the course on *"Digital skills enhancement in the green and blue economy"* for the project "Food4Health" funded by the INTERREG IPA CBC ITALY–ALBANIA–MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME and executed by CIHEAM Bari. With the digital market applied to the agri-food supply chain steadily growing, worldwide agritech turnover is estimated at around 15 billion dollars, but adoption by companies is still limited. One of the main causes is the lack of qualified skills, the mismatch between supply and demand (the digital skill mismatch), and the difficulty in finding professional profiles to support companies' design and digitisation processes.

By 2030, the European labour market will need at least 20 million ICT specialists. To date, the EU's 9 million ICT specialists fall well short of the EU aim (*Digital Economy and Society Index Report 2022, European Commission*).

The training course, which has a duration of 4 months, is part of the project Food4Health that aims to strengthen the digital skills applied to the blue and green economy in order to accelerate the process of innovation and competitiveness of companies and start-ups with technological solutions applied in the different areas of the chain: production and processing, management and monitoring, packaging/labelling, transport and logistics, by-product enhancement, sales. Due to this emerging need, a new capacity-building activity aiming at enhancing digital skills is proposed in the Food4Health project. This initiative draws clear inspiration from SDG 8 and particularly target 8.3: *“Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services”*.

## **2. The specific objective of the call**

This initiative will be implemented in collaboration with Puglia IT District, DITECH, Universities, and business associations from Albania, Montenegro, Apulia (IT) and Molise (IT) cooperation area, with an objective to train 30 graduates and nearly graduating students to attend the course on “Digital skills enhancement in the green and blue economy” for the project “Food4Health”.

## **3. FOOD4HEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS**

The International Centre for Advanced Agronomic Mediterranean Studies - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (otherwise defined as “CIHEAM Bari”) shall allocate full scholarships, including travel and accommodation.

### **The programme offered to successful applicants**

The course is based on a learning-by-doing approach with the involvement of companies in all stages of training. During the course, students will learn to solve complex business challenges by experimenting with the problem-solving methodologies of Open Innovation-Design Thinking. They will design in an agile way by building prototypes to provide concrete solutions in continuous interaction with the company and the researchers involved in the training. The overall duration of the course, held in English language, is 4 months.

The 4-month course is structured as follows:

- **1-month face-to-face training in ITALY at CIHEAM Bari or Tricase outpost** common to all participants for the alignment of basic skills. The modules will address: Business model design and social innovation (one week); Agile methods and change management (one week); Digital innovation (two weeks). In each module, the theoretical part will be supported by a case study regarding the partner company. Specifically, the Digital

innovation module will be dedicated to the demonstration and analysis of innovative digital solutions applied within companies.

- **3-months project work within companies** in Italy, Albania or Montenegro: a challenge for a multidisciplinary team of participants to develop a real solution/prototype based on the company specific innovation need. It will require the involvement of scientific experts specialized in specific areas necessary for the development of the innovative solution. The course will end with a Pitch Presentation of the innovative solution to companies.

#### 4. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicant must satisfy the following requirements on the closing date for submission of application:

##### 1. General requirements

- Be resident in the programme's eligible territories (Puglia (IT), Molise (IT), Albania, Montenegro);
- Good knowledge of the English language.

##### 2. Qualifications

- Be graduate (bachelor's degree) and nearly graduating student (enrolled in the final year of a bachelor's degree): all academic disciplines.

In case the applicant doesn't fulfil all the eligibility criteria, the application will not be taken into consideration.

#### 5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All interested applicants shall submit the application using the **CIHEAM BARI Application form** to be sent to the following email address: [cv@iamb.it](mailto:cv@iamb.it).

The application deadline is on **31/01/2023 at 23:59**.

Applicants are requested to specify the following reference code in the email subject: **Ref. n. 70/2022/SCHOLARSHIP/FOOD4HEALTH "Digital skills enhancement in green & blue economy (Project Food4Health)"**.

The following documents shall be attached to the online application form:

- 1) Curriculum vitae in English (Europass format, in pdf format, duly signed). Candidates are demanded to clearly insert place and date of birth as well as actual residence in the CV;
- 2) Motivation Letter in English (1000 characters Max). A short description of the motivations for applying, also with regard to interests, skills and digital/IT experience;
- 3) Identity document (copy of valid passport in PDF format);
- 4) Personal data treatment statement duly signed for approval.

**All the documents listed above are mandatory.**

The deadline of this call is 31/01/2023. Until the deadline the applications sent may be completed and/or amended by the applicants.

Incomplete applications will be discarded without further examination of the proposal, and all the documents received will be cancelled.

## **6. EXCLUSION FROM SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Applications containing the following defects **will not be considered**:

- Applications lacking any of the essential eligibility requirements;
- Applications received after the deadline stated in this announcement;
- Application documents not signed;
- Application lacking any essential document as per application procedure.

## **7. SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Once the terms of validity of the notice have elapsed, CIHEAM Bari assesses the applications' admissibility regarding the presence of the eligibility criteria and the absence of causes for exclusion. The CIHEAM Bari appoints a committee which includes n. 3 members. Committee members will have specific expertise in the areas covered by the call (as per point n.3 of this call), as well as autonomy and impartiality.

## **8. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS**

Once the terms of validity of the notice have elapsed, CIHEAM Bari assesses the applications' admissibility regarding the presence of the essential requirements and the absence of causes for exclusion.

The Commission, following the CIHEAM Bari procedures, are required to provide evidence of specific expertise in the areas covered by the call and assesses the merits of applications by assigning a maximum overall score of 100 points according to the following criteria:

- a. Academic qualifications (Max 70 points) Assessment of the candidate's curriculum vitae, qualifications, and possession of essential and preferred requirements as indicated in the documentation submitted by the candidate, will be carried out according to the below parameters: Academic qualification – up to 50 points; Motivation letter – up to 20 points;
- b. Oral test (Max 30 points). The oral test will take place via video conference (e.g. Skype or Zoom). The oral test shall be held in the required languages as per call for applications. It shall assess the applicant's knowledge and experience, his or her ability to carry out the task in question, the language skills required, and any other skills deemed necessary to assess the candidate's profile with the post to be filled. The oral test notice is sent by email to the address indicated by the

candidate at the time of application. Applicants shall not be entitled to reimbursement of any costs incurred in connection with the oral test.

### 8.1 SELECTION AND ASSESSEMENT OF ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification	Maximum score	Criteria
<b>Step I</b>		
CVs and qualifications	50	<p>Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 20 points for high school degree</li> <li>- 30 points for a bachelor degree</li> <li>- 40 points for a Master Degree</li> </ul> <p><b>Academic qualifications</b> and other qualifications: max 10 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 points for a PhD</li> <li>- 10 points for a university master courses (I or II level)</li> <li>- 2 points for advanced vocational training and higher university education</li> </ul>
Motivation letter	20	<p>Motivation letter evaluated with 0 to 20 points</p> <p><i>Low (0 points); sufficient (5 points); average (10 points); high (15 points); very high (20 points).</i></p>
<p><b>Step II</b></p> <p>Based on the marks awarded to each applicant according to the criteria established in Step I, a ranking will be drawn up.</p> <p>Applicants will be invited to the interview in order of Step I ranking until all available places are allocated.</p>		
Oral test	30	English level, skills and motivation
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(Step I + Step II)</b>

### 9. RESULTS OF THE SELECTION AND CLEREANCE VALIDATION

The final ranking list of successful participants in the training course is established by adding up the score awarded in the assessment of qualifications (step I + step II).

Admission to the course shall be contingent upon the real availability of places and the final decision of the Commission. Should the score be equal between applicants, the youngest applicant will have priority. The outcomes of the selection will be published on CIHEAM Bari website, on its dedicated page. Should the number of students on the reserve list exceed the maximum number of participants for each course, an appropriate ranking list shall be established. Evaluation by this jury is unquestionable.

#### **10. TIMING OF SELECTION**

The selection is expected to be accomplished by the end of 2023 January. All applicants will receive a feedback of the result of their application. For the selected ones, online intensive training will start in February, following a schedule that will be notified to participants.

#### **11. PERSONAL DATA TREATMENT**

Applicants are aware that submission of their applications implies consensus to treat and manage their personal data (included sensitive ones). This data will be exclusively managed by the CIHEAM Bari personnel who is in charge to store and use of the application dossier. CIHEAM Bari is committed to manage personal data in conformity with privacy obligations issued last 5 July 2019 (“Security of the Information and Personal Data Protection Policy”), inspired to the EU Regulation 679/2016 – “General Data Protection Regulation” including further modifications/amendments.

#### **12. OTHER CLARIFICATIONS**

For clarifications, as well as for any issue not provided for in this call, applicants can contact the Project Management Unit at the email address [youth&innovation@iamb.it](mailto:youth&innovation@iamb.it) up to January, 23. Without prejudice to compliance with the laws and regulations in force, the responses of the Project Management Unit shall be considered final and not subject to any dispute.