



SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

For the award of no.1 JUNIOR RESEARCH GRANT
under HORIZON EUROPE funds within the framework of the Project
“AGROSERV - Integrated SERVICES supporting a sustainable
AGROecological transition”

Call for proposal Ref: no.20/V/2023 dated 21/11/2023

Deadline for application: 21/12/2023

Position: Junior researcher (on a project basis)

Job type: fixed-term contract

Duration of assignment: 12 months

Project title: *Integrated SERVICES supporting a sustainable AGROecological transition*

Remuneration: 30,000.00 (gross annual amount of the recipient)

Duty station: CIHEAM Bari, Valenzano (BA)

Starting period: at the end of the recruitment process

Financed by CIHEAM Bari under Horizon Europe funds within the framework of the Project
“AGROSERV - Integrated SERVICES supporting a sustainable AGROecological transition” call:
HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-02, GA 101058020

1. CONTEXT

PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON) - Call: Research infrastructure services to support health research, accelerate the green and digital transformation, and advance frontier knowledge (2021) (HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-02) aims at integrating and providing transnational and/or virtual access to a complementary and interdisciplinary research infrastructures services to support R&I in view of achieving sustainable and resilient agriculture and support agroecological transitions, in line with the One-Health approach.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project AgroServ (Integrated SERVICES supporting a sustainable AGROecological transition, call: HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-02, GA 101058020) is a Horizon Europe project dedicated to supporting research and innovation in sustainable and resilient agriculture, as well as the agroecological transition. The project achieves this by offering customized and integrated services of 11 recognized European research infrastructures, along with a complementary range of socio-economic installations. AgroServ is committed to developing an extensive catalogue of installations, employing a tailored approach to pipeline design based on feedback from users and stakeholders. This approach enables users to address emerging challenges and to explore agroecosystems using a holistic, multi-scale approach—from the molecule to the organism, to the ecosystem, and finally, to society.

2. SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

The public selection procedure, based on qualifications and interview, is announced for the award of 1 junior research grant related to the above project, for collaboration on research activities in the field of *sustainable and resilient agriculture and agroecological transition*. The scientific area, title of the research program, duration, requirements, and location of the activity are indicated in the call for proposals. This research project is funded by the European HORIZON fund.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 Key role and tasks

The tasks of the research grant recipient are determined in the individual contract and are carried out under the direction of CIHEAM Bari scientific project coordinator.

The research activities will be carried out in a condition of autonomy, without predetermined working hours or any constraint of subordination, and will not give rise to any rights with regard access to the roles of CIHEAM Bari.

The contract will require that the grant recipient participate in the research program with the assumption of specific responsibilities in the execution of related technical and scientific activities, in direct collaboration with the scientific coordinator.

The main activities to be performed by the research grant recipient include:

1. Design and updating of a Catalogue of Integrated and Customized Research Infrastructures' Installations in the area of *sustainable and resilient agriculture and agroecological transition (SRAAET)*.
2. Co-creation of a Trans-disciplinary Framework, accounting the integration of different disciplines and research areas within SRAAET.
3. Development and Organization of Tailored Training Programs with reference to SRAAET.
4. Surveys of stakeholders and users of SRAET research infrastructures, including analysis.
5. Management of the project activities and coordination with project partners under close coordination with the project manager.
6. Supporting Dissemination and Communication regarding research infrastructures.
7. Other Relevant Tasks and Support on a need base.

The research grant will be for 12 months, possibly renewable in case of extension of the research project, and the assignment will be carried out at the CIHEAM Bari office in Valenzano (BA).

3.2 Requirements

Candidates will be considered eligible for selection based on the following essential requirements, which must be met by the application deadline:

Essential Requirements:

- Educational Qualifications: a completed higher education degree in agricultural sciences, ecology, natural/environmental/food sciences, or another relevant field.
- Knowledge and Experience: the candidate should have at least 3 years of experience in the following: development of training and capacity building; stakeholder and actors' engagement; exceptional writing and communication, including reporting; knowledge in data analysis and presentation (Experience with qualitative and quantitative methods).
- Institutional Experience: previous study or working experience with national, EU or international research institutions.
- Language Proficiency: fluent in both written and spoken English, attaining a minimum C1 Level according to the Common European Framework of Reference.

Other requirements:

- **Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Cooperation:** show readiness to work collaboratively across different fields by adopting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary methods, promoting collaboration between the natural and social sciences; flexibility in approaching new opportunities and novel viewpoints.
- **Intercultural Experience:** possess intercultural experience and an ability to thrive in a collaborative environment with individuals from diverse backgrounds, varied expertise, and differing perspectives.
- **Communication Skills:** strong and effective communication skills, with an emphasis on clear and concise expression of ideas; goal-oriented and problem-solving approach to tasks and challenges.
- **Teamwork and Flexibility:** proven ability to work in a team, displaying a cooperative mindset and flexibility in adapting to dynamic project requirements.
- **Previous EU Funding Programs and Research Infrastructure Experience:** previous experience with EU funding programs is an advantage; prior exposure to European research infrastructure programmes or projects is also considered an advantage.

CIHEAM Bari reserves the right to verify the possession of the above requirements at any time, under penalty of exclusion from the selection process.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must compulsorily register at the CIHEAM Bari's *Roster of Experts* (<https://cviamb.iamb.it>) by entering online their curriculum vitae and motivational letter, no more than two (2) pages, duly signed and indicating in the "Ref. Number" field the following: "**Ref. No.20/V/2023**".

After the registration on CIHEAM Bari's Roster of Experts, the candidate must send, via PEC, to the e-mail address cv@iamb.it, indicating in the subject line of the e-mail the statement "**Ref. N.20/V/2023 - Application for the selection of n. 1 Research Grant AGROSERV Project**", the following documentation:

1. curriculum Vitae (PDF file), Europass format in English, signed;
2. signed motivational letter (PDF file) in English, two (2) pages maximum;
3. information policy on the processing of personal data, attached to this call, signed for acceptance;
4. passport or identity card;
5. Italian university degree or foreign degree recognized as equivalent on the basis of international agreements and current regulations, with the date and university where the degree was completed and the grade obtained.

Absence, in whole or in part, of the above documentation will result in automatic rejection of the application. In addition, in case of a successful selection, the candidate agrees to provide the additional documentation required for the formalization of the assignment.

Applications must be received no later than **11:59 p.m. on 21/12/2023**.

5. DEFINITION OF EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Commission for the evaluation of qualifications has a total of 40 points, distributed as follows:

- 5 points for graduation grade as follows:
 - Up to 106/110 – 0 points
 - 107/110 – 1 point
 - 108/110 – 2 points
 - 109/110 – 3 points
 - 110/110 – 4 points
 - 110/110 with honors – 5 points
- up to a maximum of 5 points divided by the following types of qualifications: doctorate, masters, postgraduate courses and specialization diplomas relevant to the scientific-disciplinary field for which the application is being made;
- up to a maximum of 5 points for publications relevant to the scientific-disciplinary field for which the application is being made;
- up to a maximum of 10 points for experience in multi/interdisciplinary studies (see paragraph 2 of this call for proposal);
- up to a maximum of 15 points based on years of relevant professional experience in the field of sustainable and resilient agriculture and agroecological transition and project management.

6. INTERVIEW

Candidates invited for interview must achieve a minimum score of 30 points in the prior selection phase. The interview will take place remotely through a videoconferencing platform (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype) and will be conducted in the language of this announcement (English) or another language, if necessary.

The Commission has 60 points available for the interview. The interview will focus on questions pertaining to the candidate's skills and professional experience related to the position in question.

The Commission reserves the right to agree with the candidate, via e-mail, on the scheduled time for the start of the interview.

7. FORMATION OF THE MERIT RANKING LIST

At the end of the selection process, the Director will approve the records of the selection, the relevant merit ranking list and declare the winner.

The merit ranking is formed according to the order of the points of the overall grade obtained by each candidate. The overall mark is the sum of the mark achieved in the evaluation of qualifications and the mark achieved in the interview. In the selection of applications, the principle of gender equality will be applied.

In case of a tie, the youngest candidate in terms of age has priority in the ranking.

In the event of withdrawal from the grant by the successful candidate or early termination of the contract, CIHEAM Bari reserves the right to appoint another candidate from the ranking list.

The merit list will be published on the website of CIHEAM Bari – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (<https://www.iamb.it/vacancies>).

8. DURANTION AND REMUNERATION

The research grant will be funded exclusively by the Project: “AGROSERV (*Integrated SERVICES supporting a sustainable AGROecological transition*)” and will last for **12 months**, and its final term may not be postponed beyond the natural end date of the research project, unless the same project is extended, subject to adequate scientific justification and financial cover.

The gross amount on an annual basis of the research grant, paid in postponed monthly instalments, is set at € 30,000.00 (thirty thousand/00).

9. TAX, SOCIAL SECURITY AND INSURANCE TREATMENT

The provisions of Art. 4 of Law No. 476 of August 13, 1994, and subsequent amendments and additions, as well as the provisions of Law No. 335 of August 8, 1995 (Art. 2, paragraphs 26 et seq.) and subsequent amendments and additions, shall apply to the grant referred to in this call for applications in fiscal matters.

CIHEAM Bari will provide accident and civil liability insurance coverage for the research grant recipient as part of the performance of his/her activities.

The research grant recipient in charge of carrying out missions necessary for the activities of the project, previously authorised by CIHEAM Bari scientific project coordinator, shall be entitled to the mission allowance provided for by the CIHEAM Bari regulations.

10. INCOMPATIBILITIES, RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Cumulation with other research grants, or with research collaboration grants, or with scholarships of any kind awarded is not allowed.

Throughout the duration of the contract, the grant recipient is prohibited from continuously pursuing employment relationships, as well as engaging in freelance activities. Private employees, even if part-time, are not eligible for research grants.

Participation, throughout the duration of the contract, in any degree course, PhD course with scholarship or specialisation, in Italy or abroad, is not allowed.

The beginning of the research activity envisaged under the grant may be postponed or the same may be suspended for compulsory maternity or paternity leave, injury during service and illness exceeding thirty days, duly certified.

During the suspension period, the grant holder is entitled to receive what is provided for in the relevant regulations.

A total period of justified absence not exceeding 30 working days per year does not constitute suspension.

11. FORFEITURE AND TERMINATION

Any person who, within the time limit set by CIHEAM Bari, does not declare acceptance of the research grant or does not take up service within the time limit shall forfeit his or her right to the research grant.

Deferment of the start of the research activity is provided only for compulsory maternity or paternity leave, injury during service and illness exceeding thirty days, duly certified.

It constitutes cause for termination of the contract:

- serious and relevant non-fulfilment, within the terms of Article 1460 of the Civil Code, on the part of the grant holder;
- unjustified failure to start or delay in the effective start of the activity;
- unjustified suspension of activity for a period exceeding 15 days;
- negative evaluation of the conducted research activity, expressed by the Scientific Coordinator;
- breach of the obligations arising from the Code of Ethics of CIHEAM Bari.

The contract may be terminated by CIHEAM Bari, in addition to the assumptions set out above, also in the event that the research project and the related financial coverage cease.

12. WITHDRAWAL AND NOTICE OF TERMINATION

In case of early termination of the contract, the grant holder is required to give 60 (sixty) days' notice.

In case of failure to give notice, CIHEAM Bari has the right to withhold or recover an amount corresponding to the check accrual for the period of notice not given, except for just cause or justified reason.

13. REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS

Any clarifications regarding this announcement may be requested from the staff on duty in the Human Resources Office of CIHEAM Bari:

- Dott.ssa Chiara Morini: +390804606355 – mail: ufficiopersonale@iamb.it
- Avv. Valeria Sisto: +390804606403 – mail: vsisto@iamb.it

14. PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

The submission of the application by the candidate implies consent to the processing of his/her personal data by the CIHEAM Bari staff assigned to the custody, storage and use of the applications, for all the purposes set forth in this selection.

In particular, CIHEAM Bari is committed to a data processing based on lawfulness and fairness in compliance with the related confidentiality obligations, noting that CIHEAM, on July 5, 2019, adopted the "*Security of the Information and Personal Data Protection Policy*", inspired by the same principles set forth in EU Regulation 679/2016 - General Data Protection Regulation and subsequent amendments.

15. FINAL PROVISIONS

CIHEAM Bari will sign a specific contract with the candidate who passes the selection, in which the duration, terms and procedures for carrying out the research activity and disbursement of the grant will be regulated.

The contract does not in any case prefigure an employment activity and does not give rise to rights with regard to access to the roles of CIHEAM Bari.