



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Call for Proposals for the funding of Research
Projects by Young Independent Researchers
within the scope of the National Research
Programme 2021/2027 (PNR) strategic goals

U.P. Progetti di Ricerca

Legal Basis

The call for proposals is part of the University of Florence initiatives supported by Ministerial Decree 737/2021 of 25/06/2021.

The initiatives have been included in the programmatic report approved by UNIFI governing bodies in October 2021 and positively evaluated by the MUR with note 336818 of 21.12.2021

2. Tabella riepilogativa degli interventi previsti		
TIPOLOGIA DI INTERVENTO	Anno 2021 (EURO)	Anno 2022 (EURO)
a. Attivazione di contratti a tempo determinato di cui alla lettera a) dell'articolo 24, comma 3, della Legge 240/2010	2.519.854,00	
b. Iniziative di ricerca propedeutiche alla presentazione di progetti di ricerca nell'ambito del primo pilastro del Programma Quadro per la Ricerca "Horizon Europe"		210.000,00
c. Interventi volti al potenziamento delle infrastrutture di ricerca	400.000,00	2.500.000,00
d. Partenariati pubblico-privati finalizzati ad attuare progettualità a carattere "problem-driven" focalizzate su temi centrali nella programmazione europea e coerenti con il PNR	500.000,00	
e. Ricerca collaborativa tra Atenei e/o Enti pubblici di ricerca nell'ambito di un progetto coerente con il PNR per conseguire un valore aggiunto più alto di quello conseguibile singolarmente		200.000,00
f. Iniziative di ricerca interdisciplinare che esplorino temi di rilievo trasversale per il PNR, senza restrizioni basate sull'aderenza a settori scientifici di riferimento o ad aree tematiche prioritarie	1.096.039,22	2.505.893,22
g. Iniziative a sostegno di gruppi di lavoro a carattere internazionale tra giovani ricercatori post-dottorali (sul modello degli "Young Independent Research Groups (YIRG)" promossi dal Fondo per la Ricerca austriaco)	900.000,00	
TOTALE INTERVENTI PREVISTI (Somma a-g)	5.415.893,22	5.415.893,22

General Information

The call is aimed at supporting **research innovative and multidisciplinary projects** promoted by **young independent researchers**. The call wants to promote the widespread and inclusive growth of the research system; consolidate fundamental research, strengthen interdisciplinary research, accompany the development of a new generation of researchers; promote the international dimension of higher education and research.

The proposed projects must be consistent with the major research and innovation fields and related areas of intervention defined by the 2021-2027 [National Research Programme \(PNR\)](#):

1. Health
2. Culture, Creativity, Social Transformations and Inclusive Society
3. Civil security
4. Digital, Industry and Space
5. Climate, Energy, Sustainable Mobility
6. Food, Bio economy, Natural resources, Agriculture, Environment

Budget

The Call available budget amounts to **EUR 900,000.00**.

Each project shall have a **fixed duration of 24 months**.

The total funding requested by each proposal must range
between **EUR 180,000.00** and **EUR 300,000.00**



Eligibility conditions

Groups of at least three Italian or foreign researchers may apply for funding. **At least one** of the proposers must **not have resided or carried out his/her main activity** (study/work) **in Italy** for more than twelve months in the three years immediately prior to the call deadline.

A **team leader** and **two or more team members** must be identified within the proposing group. The **Team Leader** has the task of **coordinating the group** and assumes scientific responsibility for the entire project.

In the composition of the research group, proper attention shall be paid to **gender balance**. The members of the group must have **different and complementary scientific expertise**.

ATTENTION: Proposers (Team Leaders and Team Members) may only feature in one project proposal!

Eligibility conditions

The projects will be carried out at the University of Florence.

One or more UNIFI Departments must be **identified** to carry out the proposed activities. In case more than one Department is identified, the Department supporting the Team Leader will play the role of project Coordinator.

When submitting the proposal, a **letter of intent** signed **by the Director of each Department involved must be attached**, confirming the availability to host the proposing researchers and indicating the spaces and infrastructures that will be made available. The document must be drawn up by using the proposed forms.

Eligibility conditions

Proposers (**Team Leaders and Team Members**) must meet the following **requirements at the call deadline**:

1. have been awarded the **PhD title no more than 5 years prior to the call deadline**
2. **not have active contractual relationships with the University of Florence or with other Italian universities** falling within one of the **following types**: Researcher with a fixed-term contract as per letters A) and B) of article 24 of Law 240 of 30 December 2010, Researcher with an indefinite-term contract, Associate Professor, Full Professor;
3. Each applicant (Team Leader or Team Member), at the start date of the project, may **not have held research grants for a duration such as to exceed**, with the two years of grant provided for in this call, **the limit of 6 years established in art.6, paragraph 2 bis of Law 27/2/2015, n.11.**

Applications and deadlines

Proposals, drawn up in English, must be submitted by the Team Leader using the application system available at <https://sol.unifi.it/youngresearchers/engine>

The deadline for submitting applications is

18/05/2022 at 12.00 a.m. (CET)



Applications and deadlines

If the **Team Leader** is an **internal user**, i.e. already employed at the University of Florence under one of the contract types allowed by the Call or has the national SPID credentials (Public Digital Identity System) he/she can directly access to the application system by using the following link: <https://sol.unifi.it/youngresearchers/engine>

External users shall request access to the application system by writing to ricercaue@unifi.it no later than 3 working days prior to the call deadline.



External users

External users, after getting in touch with ricercaue@unifi.it, are going to receive an email with the access link to the submission system.

ATTENTION: use only the link provided by email to access the submission system!

SERVIZIO PER LA PRESENTAZIONE DEI PROGETTI DEL BANDO RESEARCH GROUP

domenica 3 aprile 2022

ACCESSO AL SERVIZIO

Servizio per la Presentazione dei progetti del bando research group

LOGIN	
Utente:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="password"/>
<input type="button" value="entra"/>	

Per recuperare la password di accesso al servizio: [recupero_password](#)

External Users

Within your email you'll find the assigned **username** and **password**:

Dear [REDACTED]

Welcome to the electronic submission system of the University of Florence for the project calls promoted under Ministerial Decree 737/2021.

Please log on to the application portal from the following link:

[REDACTED]

Following your registration request we confirm you have been assigned the following access credentials:

UTENTE: [REDACTED]

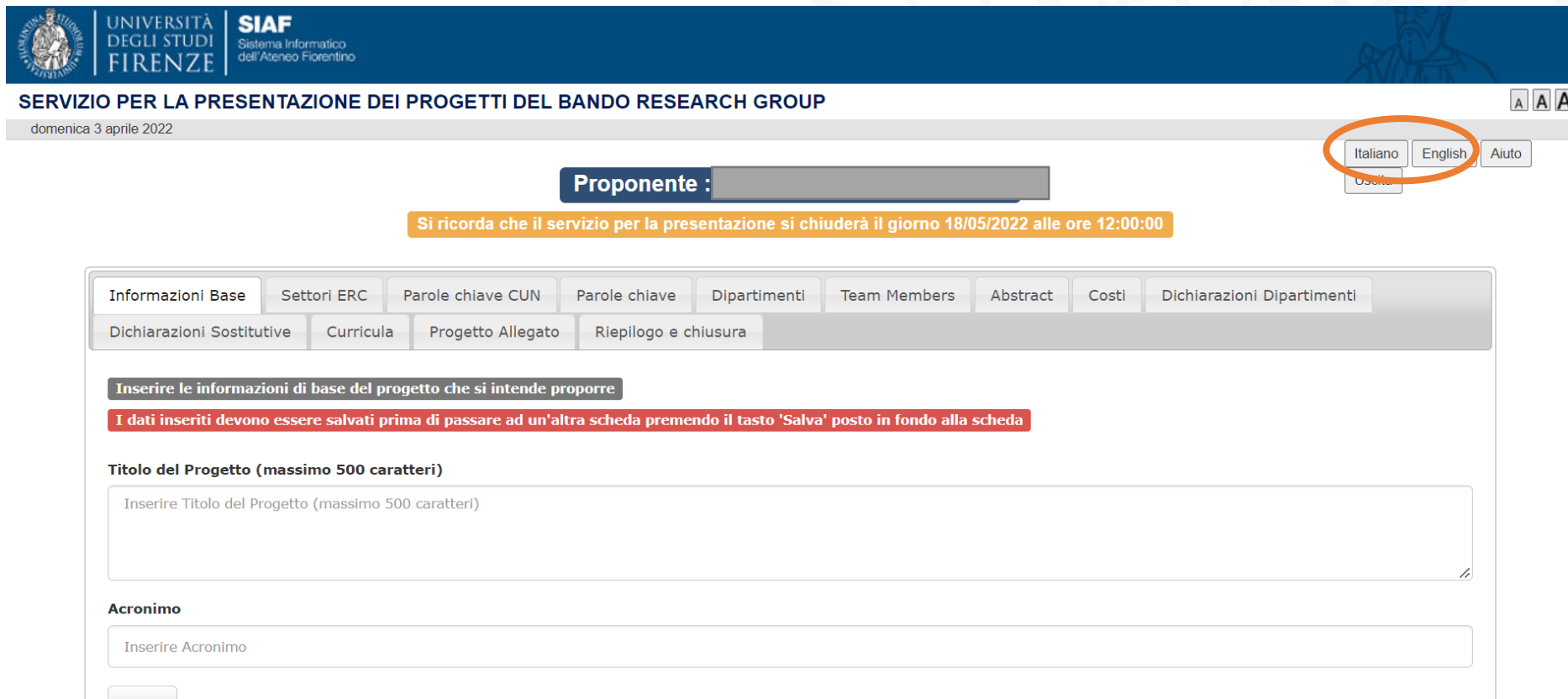
PASSWORD: [REDACTED]

If you need further information or assistance, you may check the Call for Proposals official webpage <https://www.unifi.it/p12176.html> or get in touch with ricercaue@unifi.it

U.P. Progetti di Ricerca

Online submission system

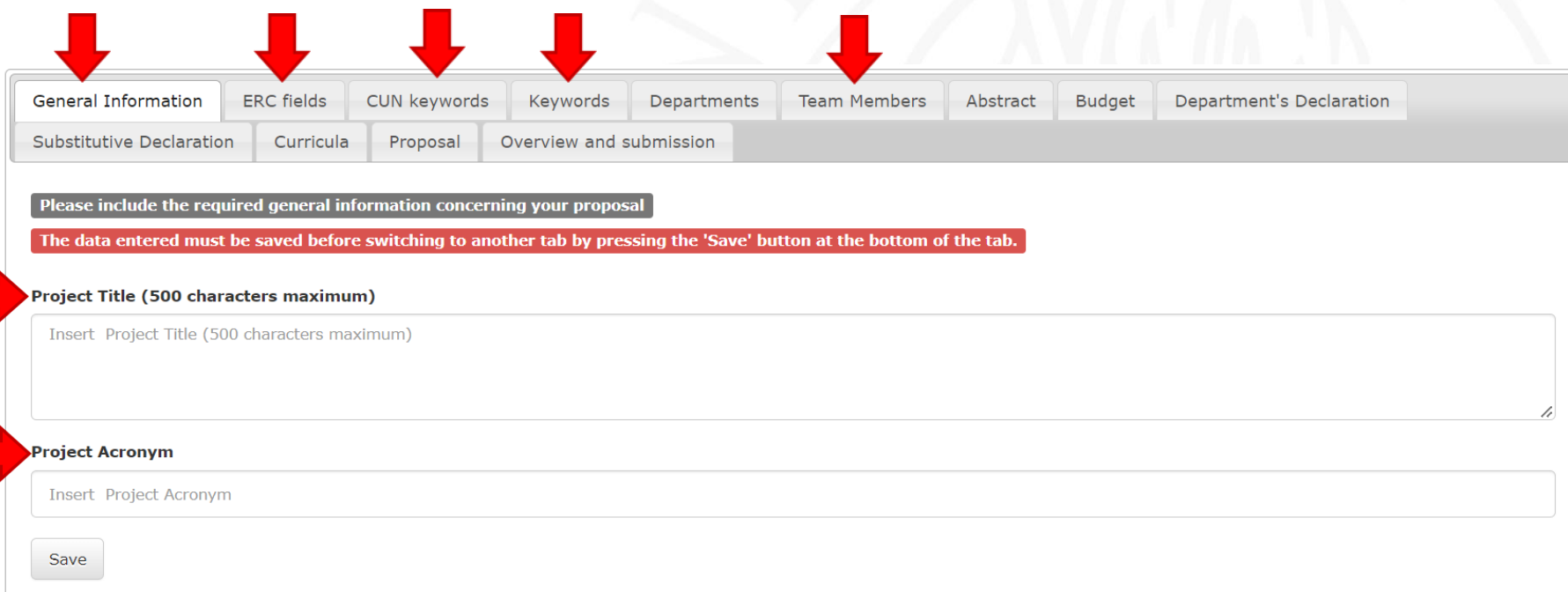
The online submission system is available in Italian and English



The screenshot shows the 'SERVIZIO PER LA PRESENTAZIONE DEI PROGETTI DEL BANDO RESEARCH GROUP' interface. At the top left, the University of Florence logo and 'SIAF Sistema Informatico dell'Ateneo Fiorentino' are visible. The main header contains the service name and a date 'domenica 3 aprile 2022'. On the right, there are language selection buttons for 'Italiano', 'English', and 'Aiuto', with 'Italiano' and 'English' circled in orange. Below the header, a 'Proponente' field is shown with a greyed-out name. A yellow warning box states: 'Si ricorda che il servizio per la presentazione si chiuderà il giorno 18/05/2022 alle ore 12:00:00'. A navigation bar includes tabs for 'Informazioni Base', 'Settori ERC', 'Parole chiave CUN', 'Parole chiave', 'Dipartimenti', 'Team Members', 'Abstract', 'Costi', 'Dichiarazioni Dipartimenti', 'Dichiarazioni Sostitutive', 'Curricula', 'Progetto Allegato', and 'Riepilogo e chiusura'. The main content area has a dark grey instruction bar: 'Inserire le informazioni di base del progetto che si intende proporre'. Below this, a red warning box says: 'I dati inseriti devono essere salvati prima di passare ad un'altra scheda premendo il tasto 'Salva' posto in fondo alla scheda'. The form includes a 'Titolo del Progetto (massimo 500 caratteri)' text area and an 'Acronimo' text area.

Project Proposal Part A

- ✓ Project title and acronym;
- ✓ Team leader and Team members (at least 3);
- ✓ ERC fields;
- ✓ At least 4 keywords (3 CUN keywords and 1 free keyword).



The screenshot shows a web interface for a project proposal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: General Information, ERC fields, CUN keywords, Keywords, Departments, Team Members, Abstract, Budget, Department's Declaration, Substitutive Declaration, Curricula, Proposal, and Overview and submission. Below the tabs, there are two instructional messages: "Please include the required general information concerning your proposal" and "The data entered must be saved before switching to another tab by pressing the 'Save' button at the bottom of the tab." The main content area contains two input fields: "Project Title (500 characters maximum)" and "Project Acronym". A "Save" button is located at the bottom left of the form. Red arrows point to the "General Information" tab, the "Project Title" field, and the "Project Acronym" field.

Project Proposal

SERVIZIO PER LA PRESENTAZIONE DEI PROGETTI DEL BANDO RESEARCH GROUP

mercoledì 6 aprile 2022

Choose a ERC field

- LS1 - LS1_1 - Macromolecular complexes including interactions involving nucleic acids, proteins, lipids and carbohydrates
- LS1 - LS1_2 - Biochemistry
- LS1 - LS1_3 - DNA synthesis, modification, repair, recombination, degradation
- LS1 - LS1_4 - RNA synthesis, processing, modification, degradation
- LS1 - LS1_5 - Protein synthesis, modification, turnover
- LS1 - LS1_6 - Lipid biology
- LS1 - LS1_7 - Glycobiology
- LS1 - LS1_8 - Molecular biophysics (e.g. single-molecule approaches, bioenergetics, fluorescence)
- LS1 - LS1_9 - Structural biology and its methodologies (e.g. crystallography, cryo-EM, NMR and new technologies)
- LS1 - LS1_10 - Molecular mechanisms of signalling pathways
- LS1 - LS1_11 - Fundamental aspects of synthetic biology and chemical biology
- LS2 - LS2_1 - Molecular genetics, reverse genetics, forward genetics, genome editing
- LS2 - LS2_2 - Non-coding RNAs
- LS2 - LS2_3 - Quantitative genetics
- LS2 - LS2_4 - Genetic epidemiology
- LS2 - LS2_5 - Epigenetics and gene regulation
- LS2 - LS2_6 - Genomics (e.g. comparative genomics, functional genomics)
- LS2 - LS2_7 - Metagenomics
- LS2 - LS2_8 - Transcriptomics

Italiano English
Logout

Choose a ERC field

Add

General Information

ERC fields

CUN keywords

Keywords

Departments

Team Members

Abstract

Budget

Department's Declaration

Substitutive Declaration

Curricula

Proposal

Overview and submission

CUN keywords (minimum 3, maximum 10)

CUN keyword

Date of entry

Add another CUN keyword

Choose a CUN keyword

Add

Project Proposal



General Information ERC fields CUN keywords Keywords Departments **Team Members** Abstract Budget Department's Declaration

Substitutive Declaration Curricula Proposal Overview and submission

Team Members

To save the data entered please select "Add" at the bottom of the tab. Once saved the data entered cannot be modified. Please check the information provided carefully before saving.

Non sono stati ancora inseriti

Add Team Member

Role *

Select one entry

Surname *

Insert Surname

Name *

Project Proposal

Part B – Maximum 20 pages

Quality - maximum 8 pages

- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ State of the Art
- ✓ Proposed Methodology
- ✓ Consistency of the project with PNR themes
- ✓ Ambition
- ✓ Description of the profiles of the proposing researchers and their respective roles within the project

Implementation - maximum 8 pages

- ✓ Work plan
- ✓ Management structures and procedures
- ✓ Financial aspects

Impact – maximum 4 pages

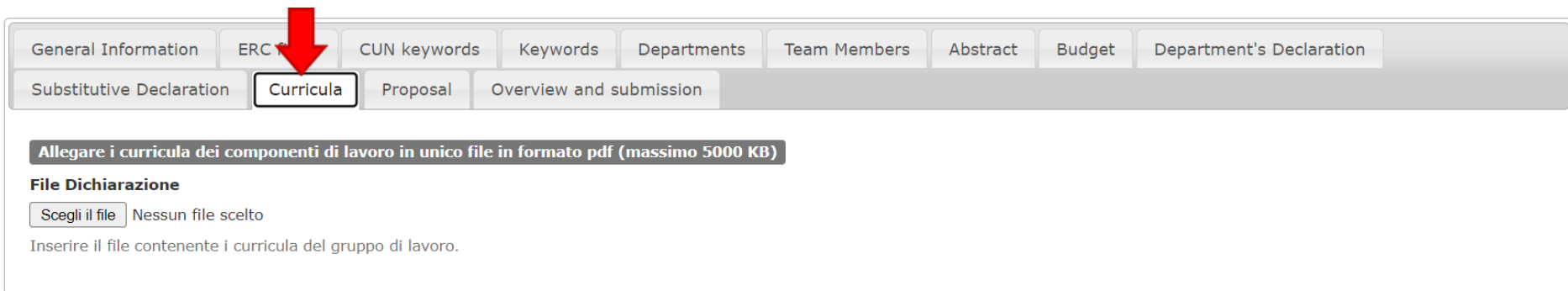
- ✓ Expected impacts
- ✓ Measures to maximize impact
- ✓ Planned dissemination and scientific dissemination activities with particular reference to activities oriented towards the general public (e.g. Bright- Night, ERN) and open science

Project Proposal

Part C

Curriculum vitae of the Team Leader and Team Members consistent with the contents of the project proposal.

Relevant publications produced in the 5 years preceding the deadline of the Call for Proposals (max 10 publications) and the main research results achieved by each proposing researcher shall be included in the submitted CV.



General Information ERC **Curricula** CUN keywords Keywords Departments Team Members Abstract Budget Department's Declaration

Substitutive Declaration Proposal Overview and submission

Allegare i curricula dei componenti di lavoro in unico file in formato pdf (massimo 5000 KB)

File Dichiarazione

Scegli il file Nessun file scelto

Inserire il file contenente i curricula del gruppo di lavoro.

ATTENTION: always use the mandatory templates proposed by the Call!

Additional Eligibility Conditions

- ✓ In line with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, projects shall be carried out in accordance with the principle of "no significant damage" to the environment (DNSH).
- ✓ The proposal must provide free online access (at least in green access mode) to the results obtained and to the contents of the research subject to peer-reviewed scientific publications under the project.
- ✓ Any obligations of confidentiality or personal data protection remain unaffected. Data that could compromise the achievement of the main objective of the research itself are exempt from open access.



UNIFI Research Register and Departments Resolutions

- ✓ The Director of the Department of the Team Leader is required to **include the proposal within the Research Register of the University of Florence** indicating the total budget required by the coordinated group and by choosing as relevant funding scheme “Finanziamenti Nazionali-MUR-D.M. 737”
- ✓ Prior to the submission of the application for funding, Team Leader and Team Members must obtain from the **Councils** of the **Departments** involved appropriate **resolutions** confirming the feasibility of the project, i.e. the availability of each structure to host the members of the research group, indicating the spaces and infrastructures that will be made available



General Information	ERC fields	CUN keywords	Keywords	Departments	Team Members	Abstract
Budget	Department's Declaration	Substitutive Declaration	Curricula	Proposal	Overview and submission	

Please include the required general information concerning your proposal

The data entered must be saved before switching to another tab by pressing the 'Save' button at the bottom of the tab.

Assessment

The assessment procedure shall be coordinated by an **Evaluation Committee** appointed by Rectoral Decree based on the proposal of the Research Commission (Commissione Ricerca).

The Evaluation Committee is made up of **5 members**, one for each research area of the University, the most senior member acts as coordinator.

The **members of the Committee must not:**

- ✓ have had research collaborations with the proposers in the five years preceding the publication of this call;
- ✓ have been co-authors of scientific publications with the applicants in the five years preceding the publication of this call.

The Commission verify whether the applicants meet the required eligibility requirements set out in the call and whether the submission procedure provided for has been duly respected.



Assessment



Applications will be subject to an **external assessment**:

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT



- ✓ the Evaluation Committee selects for each project a list of **at least 10 external, national or international reviewers**;
- ✓ from this list, **3 reviewers will be drawn by lot** to assess each project;
- ✓ **each reviewer draws up the "evaluation sheet" independently** and without contact with the other reviewer of the same project and gives a numerical score accompanied by a brief justification.

	MAXIMUM SCORE	MINIMUM THRESHOLD
1. Quality of the research project	50	35
a) Coherence of the proposed themes with the strategic areas identified in the National Research Programme 2021/27	10	
b) Innovativeness and interdisciplinary aspects	10	
c) Methodology	10	
d) Profile of the proposing researchers	10	
e) Coherence of the expertise and competences of the proposers with the project topics	10	
2. Impact of the research project	25	15
a) Expected impacts	10	
b) Capacity for innovation and integration of new knowledge	7,5	
c) Effectiveness of the proposed measures for dissemination, communication and exploitation of results	7,5	
3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation of the research project	25	15
a) Coherence of work plan, division of tasks and resources	9	
b) Quality of the participants, both individually and as a research team	8	
c) Respect for gender balance	2	
d) Appropriateness of the budget	6	
TOTAL SCORE	100	65



Projects not obtaining at least the minimum threshold for each evaluation criterion are not eligible for funding.





Assessment

At the end of the external evaluation, the Committee examines the scores assigned by each reviewer and determines the **final score** for each project by applying a "**weighted average**", i.e. weighing more heavily the two most consistent evaluations.



In the event of a **tie vote**, the Committee will favor

- ✓ the project which received the highest score under evaluation criterion "Quality of the research project";
- ✓ in the event of a further tie vote, the project coordinated by the youngest Team Leader is favored

At the end of the procedure the Evaluation Committee:

- ✓ Proposes the **ranking list** of projects
- ✓ analyses the contribution requested for each project
- ✓ Determines the **relevant funding to be assigned**



Budget: eligible costs

Eligible expenses must relate to **costs actually incurred by the end of the project** for the realization of the proposed initiative.

The following **costs** are **eligible**:

a) Personnel

- ✓ costs related to the **contracting of the team leader**- research grant of €33,000.00 per year (gross administrative cost)
- ✓ costs related to the **contracting of the team members** - research grant of €30,000.00 per year (gross administrative cost)
- ✓ Costs related to the **contracting of additional personnel** – other research grants



a) Other operating costs:

- ✓ Consumables
- ✓ Publication expenses (including open access)
- ✓ Travel and participation in dissemination events
- ✓ Dissemination costs



ATTENTION: The following costs are **not eligible** under this call: Equipment, Phd fellowships, structured staff possibly involved in the project, costs deriving from internal debit notes of the University of Florence.

Use and reporting of funding

From the date of notification of the **award of the grant**, the **team leader** must communicate its **acceptance**, on behalf of all the applicants, **within 30 days**, under penalty of forfeiture and slippage in the ranking list.

Funded projects will start from the start dates of the research grants of the team leader and team members.

Funding is paid to the Department to which the Team Leader belongs according to the following procedures:

- ✓ at the **project start date 50% of the total funding**, net of the resources needed to activate the research grant positions for the team members;
- ✓ a second instalment of **50% halfway through the project** upon presentation of an interim scientific report and financial statement submitted by the Team Leader within 30 days of the end of the 12th month of the project.

Reporting



The Team Leader is required to submit on behalf of the entire group:

- ✓ **within 30 days of the end of the 12th month of the project**
 - Intermediate Scientific Report
 - Intermediate Financial Statement
- ✓ **within 30 days after the end of the project**
 - Final Scientific Report
 - Final Financial Statement

Monitoring and evaluation of results

The University Research Commission carries out:

- ✓ **intermediate monitoring** to examine the partial results achieved and any impacts already visible, on the basis of the intermediate scientific report submitted by the Team Leader;
- ✓ The **final assessment** aimed at verifying the achievement of the objectives set out in the project proposal, on the basis of the final scientific report accompanied by the final statement of expenditure incurred.





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