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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITOLO DI INTERVENTO</th>
<th>Anno 2021 (EURO)</th>
<th>Anno 2022 (EURO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Attivazione di contratti a tempo determinato di cui alla lettera a) dell’articolo 24, comma 3, della Legge 240/2010</td>
<td>2.519.854,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Iniziative di ricerca propedeutiche alla presentazione di progetti di ricerca nell’ambito del primo pilastro del Programma Quadro per la Ricerca “Horizon Europe”</td>
<td></td>
<td>210.000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Interventi volti al potenziamento delle infrastrutture di ricerca</td>
<td>400.000,00</td>
<td>2.500.000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Partenariati pubblico-privati finalizzati ad attuare progettualità a carattere “problem-driven” focalizzate su temi centrali nella programmazione europea e coerenti con il PNR</td>
<td>500.000,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
<td>200.000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>1.096.039,22</td>
<td>2.505.893,22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>900.000,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALE INTERVENTI PREVISTI (Somma a-g)</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.415.893,22</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.415.893,22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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](https://sol.unifi.it/youngresearchers/engine)

**External users** shall request access to the application system by writing to [ricercaue@unifi.it](mailto: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!
External Users

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

Dear

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:

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
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).
Project Proposal

SERVIZIO PER LA PRESENTAZIONE DEI PROGETTI DEL BANDO RESEARCH GROUP

mercoledì 6 aprile 2022

Choose a ERC field

CUN keywords (minimum 3, maximum 10)

Add another CUN keyword

Choose a CUN keyword

Date of entry

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

Substitutive Declaration Curricula Proposal Overview and submission

Webinar – Call Young Researchers D.M. 737– 4th april 2022
Project Proposal

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
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.

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.
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.
## Assessment criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Quality of the research project</th>
<th>MAXIMUM SCORE</th>
<th>MINIMUM THRESHOLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coherence of the proposed themes with the strategic areas identified in the National Research Programme 2021/27</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Innovativeness and interdisciplinary aspects</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methodology</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profile of the proposing researchers</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coherence of the expertise and competences of the proposers with the project topics</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Impact of the research project</th>
<th>MAXIMUM SCORE</th>
<th>MINIMUM THRESHOLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expected impacts</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity for innovation and integration of new knowledge</strong></td>
<td>7,5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effectiveness of the proposed measures for dissemination, communication and exploitation of results</strong></td>
<td>7,5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation of the research project</th>
<th>MAXIMUM SCORE</th>
<th>MINIMUM THRESHOLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coherence of work plan, division of tasks and resources</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quality of the participants, both individually and as a research team</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Respect for gender balance</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appropriateness of the budget</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL SCORE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MAXIMUM SCORE</th>
<th>MINIMUM THRESHOLD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
For further info:
U.P. Progetti di Ricerca
ricercaue@unifi.it

Denise Cuccìa - 055 2751912