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THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION DOES NOT HAVE LEGAL VALUE IN ITSELF, AND THUS DOES NOT SUPERSEDE THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THE CALL (AVVISO)

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO JOIN THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED
REGISTER OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS
TO SUPPORT THE ASSESSMENT OF THE MERITS IN
PROJECTS PRESENTED ON THE NRRP CASCADE FUNDING**

MISSION 4 - COMPONENT 2

SPOKE LEADER UNIVERSITY OF MILAN

DIRECTORIAL FORMAL DECISION

Subject: Establishment of the Register of Independent External Experts

HAVING REGARD TO:

- Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 57 of 18 February 2021, establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility of the European Union;
- Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, No 1301/2013, No 1303/2013, No 1304/2013, No 1309/2013, No 1316/2013, No 223/2014, No 283/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012;
- Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088;
- the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (hereinafter NRRP), submitted to the European Commission on 30 April 2021 pursuant to art. 18 of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/241, approved by ECOFIN Council Decision of 13 July 2021 and notified to Italy by the General Secretariat of the Council with note LT 161/21, of 14 July 2021;
- the Decree-Law No. 77 of 31 May 2021, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 108 of 29 July 2021, on "Governance of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and first measures to strengthen administrative structures and accelerate and streamline procedures";
- the Guidelines defined by the Ministry of University and Research (hereinafter MUR) for the system initiatives of Mission 4 Component 2, approved by Ministerial Decree no. 1141 of 7 October 2021, shared with the NRRP Steering Committee dedicated to education and research;
- the Ministerial Decree no. 1314 of 14 December 2021, containing "Provisions for the granting of financial benefits", issued by the MUR in implementation of the aforementioned reform 1.1 of the M4C2 and subsequent amendments;
- the Legislative Decree 36/2023 art. 50, Public Contracts Code implementing art.1 of Law no. 78 of 21 June 2022 delegating to the Government the matter of public contracts;
- the Monitoring Guidelines for the Hub of 26 September 2022, issued by the MUR, doc. U. 0007146 official register;
- the "Reporting guidelines for the implementing entities of the Mission 4 component 2 system initiatives" (hereinafter "reporting guidelines"), of 10 October 2022, aimed at the beneficiaries of funding and providing the procedural indications for the correct performance of the reporting activities of the activities and expenses of the services approved under the MUR system initiatives related to Mission 4 - Component 2 of the NRRP and subsequent additions, if any;
- the "Guidelines for information and communication actions for implementing entities", version 1.0 of 10 October 2022, issued by the MUR with doc. official register U.0007553.

WHEREAS

the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) has issued:

- with Directorial Decree (D.D.) 16 December 2021 no. 3138, amended by D.D. 18 December 2021 no. 3175, the Public Notice for the submission of Proposals for the Enhancement of research facilities and creation of "National Champions" of R&D on some Key Enabling Technologies to be funded under the NRRP, Mission 4 Component 2 Investment 1.4 "Strengthening research facilities and creation of "national R&D champions" on some Key Enabling Technologies" funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU";
- with D.D. of 30 December 2021 no. 3277 the Notice for the submission of Proposals for intervention for the creation and strengthening of "innovation ecosystems", establishment of "territorial R&D leaders" - Innovation Ecosystems - under the NRRP, Mission 4 Education and Research - Component 2 From research to business - Investment 1.5, funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU";
- with D.D. 15 March 2022, no. 341 the Public Notice for the submission of Proposals for the creation of "Partnerships extended to universities, research centers, companies for the financing of basic research projects" - as part of the NRRP, Mission 4 "Education and research" - Component 2 "From research to business" - Investment 1.3, funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU".

WHEREAS

- within the scope of the aforementioned Notices, it is envisaged that the Spokes with public nature will issue, within the limits and in the manner provided, the "cascade funding";
- 'cascade funding' are competitive procedures issued by the Spokes with public nature, in compliance with the provisions on State aid, competitions and public contracts, as well as other applicable EU and national rules, for the recruitment of fixed-term researchers and technologists, for the granting of funding for research activities to entities outside the Innovation Ecosystem and for the purchase of supplies, goods and services necessary for its implementation;
- the Spokes undertake to activate "cascade funding" for a total amount defined in each Project and assigned to the R&I Program, according to the indications that will be provided by the Hub;

CONSIDERED

that the MUR has approved investments with the following concession Directorial Decrees:

- nr. 1032 of 17 June 2022, funding for the National Centre with the identification code CN0000022 for the implementation of the **AGRITECH** - National Research Centre for Agricultural Technologies - research programme;
- nr. 1035 of 17 June 2022, funding of the National Center for Gene Therapy and Drugs based on RNA Technology - **Project CN3** -, theme "Development of gene therapy and drugs with RNA technology", with the identification code CN0000041, for the implementation of the Research Program entitled "National Center for Gene Therapy and Drugs based on RNA Technology";

- nr. 1560 of 11 October 2022, funding for the extended partnership with the identification code PE00000020 for the implementation of the **CHANGES - CULTURAL HERITAGE ACTIVE INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY** programme;
- nr. 1055 of 23 June 2022, funding of the Innovation Ecosystem "MUSA - Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action" area of intervention "5. Climate, Energy and Sustainable Mobility", with the identification code ECS00000037, for the implementation of the Research and Innovation Program entitled "MUSA - Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action";
- nr. 1550 of 11 October 2022 funding for the extended partnership with the identification code PE00000003 for the implementation of the **ON FOODS** programme - Research and Innovation on foods and Nutrition Sustainability Safety and Security;
- nr. 1556 on 11 October 2022, funding for the Extended Partnership with the identification code PE0000014 for the implementation of the research program "**SERICS - Security and Rights in Cyber Space**".

The University of Milan (hereinafter the University/Academy) as:

- Leader of Spoke 8 of the AGRITECH project - CUP project G43C22003330005
- Leader of Spoke 9 of the CN3 project - CUP project G43C22001320007
- Leader of Spoke 2 of the CHANGES project - CUP project G53C22000430006
- Leader of Spoke 2 of the MUSA project - CUP project G43C22001370007
- Leader of Spoke 4 of the ONFOODS project - CUP project G43C22002610001
- Leader of Spoke 10 of the SERICS project - CUP G43C2200582580001 project

will proceed with the issuing of cascade funding on the following NRRP projects:

- AGRITECH - New models of circular economy in agriculture through the valorization and recycling of waste
- CN3 - National Center for Gene Therapy and Drugs based on RNA Technology
- Changes - Creativity and Intangible Cultural Heritage
- MUSA - Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action
- ONFOODS - Food, Quality and Nutrition
- SERICS - Security and Rights in the Governance and Data Protection.

IT IS FORMALLY DECIDED

The establishment of the **Register of Independent External Experts** (hereinafter the **Register**) in order to have eligible professionals for the assessment of the merits of the project proposals defined above.

Art. 1 Purpose

1. The University establishes a Register so as to have eligible professionals for the assessment of the merit in project proposals submitted in response to the cascade funding - Mission 4 Component 2 - From research to business in which the University has the role of Spoke Leader.
2. This Call for expression of interest activates the collection of spontaneous applications through Expression of Interest to join the Register composed of independent external Experts (hereinafter Experts) qualified for the assessment of the merits in funding applications project proposals submitted to the University in response to the cascade funding indicated above.

3. The Register will be structured into 6 thematic areas, one thematic area for each of the project cascade funding referred to in this Call for expression of interest.
4. The duration of the Register is contextual to the NRRP duration and it may be extended for further assessment needs within the University's Research Area.
5. This Call does not represent any public or selective procedure, establishing only a Register of Experts to be contacted for the possible assignment of the appointment. This Call and the subsequent establishment of the Register do not bind the University in any way. The University reserves the right to suspend or revoke the Call at any time during the procedure by giving notice at the link:

https://work.unimi.it/servizi_ricerca/bandi_finanz/130450.htm

Art. 2 Candidates

1. This Call is addressed, in accordance with current legislation, to professionals and individuals **with specific and high competence, as well as significant experience** in one or more of the thematic areas of the table "TABLE - THEMATIC AREAS" as indicated below in this Article
2. The University, in line with the provisions of the NRRP, guarantees:
 - a. equal opportunities between men and women as provided for by Legislative Decree no. 198 of 11.04.2006 "Code of equal opportunities between men and women" and subsequent amendments;
 - b. protection and empowerment of young people;
 - c. inclusion of people with disabilities in the labor market.
3. There will not be rankings, attribution of points and/or other classifications of merit for those who will submit the Expression of Interest to be included in the Register.

TABLE - THEMATIC AREAS

AGRITECH: NEW MODELS OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN AGRICULTURE THROUGH THE VALORISATION AND RECYCLING OF WASTE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green chemistry and green extraction processes in agriculture • Polymeric biomaterials from agricultural waste, by-products and co-products • Biofertilizers • Circular agricultural districts • Energy production from agricultural by-products
CN3: NATIONAL CENTER FOR GENE THERAPY AND DRUGS BASED ON RNA TECHNOLOGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry and biochemistry of Nucleic Acids • Pharmacoconomics and regulatory affairs • Computer Science applied to Biological Data Management • Clinical pharmacology - Experience in clinical trials is required • Pharmaceutical technologies • Cell and animal biology
CHANGES: CREATIVITY AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive installations, multimedia dramaturgy, digital technologies and cultural heritage • Sociology of cultural and communication processes, digital creativity, digital performance, social media

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media, Immersive Cinema, Creative Industries • Museum, multimedia and interactive installations, Performance and theatre • Art History, Museum and Exhibition Curation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design for Cultural Heritage and Design for Services • Web Graphics • Information Technology
<p>MUSA: MULTILAYERED URBAN SUSTAINABILITY ACTION</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud continuum • Edge Computing • Service Computing • Cybersecurity
<p>ONFOODS: FOOD, QUALITY AND NUTRITION</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human nutrition • Food quality • Food technology and biotechnology experts
<p>SERICS: GOVERNANCE AND DATA PROTECTION</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database models and technologies • Knowledge representation and ontologies • Access control policies and models • Data security and privacy • Data management architectures • Cloud/Edge/Fog computing

Art. 3 Requirements

The Expression of Interest may be submitted by applicants who meet the following requirements.

1. General requirements:

- a. To be an Italian citizen or a citizen of one of the Member States of the European Union.
- b. To enjoy civil and political rights.
- c. To have not been excluded from the active political electorate.
- d. To have not been convicted of a criminal offence and to be not the subject of any judicial measures entered in the criminal record. The reasons for impending the assignation referred to in this number also apply in case that the final judgment has decided for the application of the judicial punishment upon request, pursuant to art. 444 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- e. To have not held positions in political parties or trade unions in the last two years and to have not had continuous collaboration or consultancy relationships with the aforementioned organizations in the last two years (Article 53, paragraph 1 bis of Legislative Decree 165/2001).
- f. To have not a degree of blood kinship or affinity, up to the fourth degree included, with the University Rector, the Director General, a member of the Board of Directors.
- g. To do not find themselves in conditions of incompatibility or ineligibility that are contemplated by current legislation and in particular by Legislative Decree 39/2013, Legislative Decree 165/2001 and Legislative Decree 175/2016, committing themselves as of now to remove any causes of incompatibility at the end of the selection.

2. Integrity requirements:

- a. to have not been convicted of a criminal offence, even if they have not become final, and to have not proceedings in progress for crimes against property and public administration or that lead to disqualification from public service or that in any case prevent the establishment of an employment relationship with the PA;
- b. to have not been convicted in the judgments of accounting and administrative liability for damage caused to the tax administration;
- c. to have not been removed due to justified reasons from the position of manager before the end of the mandate;
- d. to have not been the recipient, as a civil servant, of a disciplinary sanction higher than censure;
- e. to have not been subjected in the last three years to disciplinary proceedings that have resulted in a final decision imposing a sanction and to have not disciplinary proceedings in progress;
- f. to have not been dismissed or dispensed from employment in a Public Administration for persistent insufficient performance, or to have not been declared forfeited from a state employment, pursuant to the State legislation on civil servants.

3. Expertise and technical experience requirements:

- a. To be in possession of a bachelor's degree (Laurea specialistica) or a Master's Degree (Laurea Magistrale) or a bachelor's degree according to Italian old system degree (Laurea Vecchio ordinamento”.
- b. To have gained specific experience with one or more assignments for the evaluation of projects for the public administration and private companies.
- c. To have a good knowledge of the English language.

4. Apart from what is indicated for the reasons of impediment to the assignment, the participation requirements must be met on the date of expiry of the deadline established for the submission of the admission application and maintained for the entire duration of the collaboration. The possession of the requisites may be ascertained during the procedure of this Call and the lack of the same will result in exclusion from the procedure itself and will constitute cause of forfeiture of the assignment, if conferred, and cancellation from the Register.

Art. 4 Impeding reasons for the assignment

Without prejudice to other cases of prohibition of assignment and incompatibility indicated by current legislation, it will not be possible assign to those who:

- a) have held positions in political parties or trade unions in the last two years and have had continuous collaboration or consultancy relationships with the aforementioned organisations in the last two years (Article 53, paragraph 1 bis of Legislative Decree 165/2001);
- b) find themselves, in relation to the political-administrative steering body of the University, the Hub, the Spokes or the Spoke Affiliates in a situation of conflict, even potential, of their own interests, of their spouse's interests, cohabitants, blood relatives, affinity relationship within the second degree;
- c) have a relationship of marriage, cohabitation, kinship or affinity within the second degree with managers operating in the Spoke, in Affiliates or with the political-administrative body of the University;
- d) are in one of the conditions of incompatibility or ineligibility listed by current legislation and in particular by Legislative Decree no. 39/2013, Legislative Decree 165/2001 and Legislative Decree 175/2016, committing itself as of now to remove any causes of incompatibility at the end of the selection procedure.

Art 5. Submission of applications

1. Expressions of interest, duly completed and signed, must be sent - exclusively through the dedicated online platform - within 15 December 2023, accompanied by a photocopy of a valid identity document.

The telematics platform is available at the following link:

https://elixforms.unimi.it/rwe2/module_preview.jsp?MODULE_TAG=DirRICERCA_ShortList_EspertiValutatori

2. Must be attached to the Expression of Interest, subject to participant's exclusion if missed, the participant's **curriculum vitae in English language**, duly signed, in which the experience gained must be reported, with the indication of the implementation period of each activity, the Body/Institution/Client, the roles held, and the activity carried out.
3. With regard to other qualifications and/or experience useful to highlight professional experience for the purposes of the thematic area reported in the Table showed in art. 2 (including any registration in the Reprise Register - Digital Register of Independent Scientific Experts of the MUR, in the European Commission database of independent experts for research programmes) all the elements suitable for qualifying them must be highlighted in the curriculum vitae.
4. The candidate expressing the interest must be an owner of a certified e-mail address, e-mail address to be indicated in the Expression of Interest.
5. Will not be considered valid methods of transmission of the Expression of Interest that differ from those indicated or by means/with modalities different than those indicated.
6. The University may request, at any time during the procedure, to submit all or part of the documents proving the requirements, if will be necessary to ensure the proper conduct of the procedure.
7. The University reserves the right to carry out appropriate checks on the truthfulness of the self-declarations contained in the Expression of Interest and in the curriculum vitae.
8. The University has the right to re-open the Register by giving notice at the link:
https://work.unimi.it/servizi_ricerca/bandi_finanz/130450.htm

Art. 6 Establishment of the Register

1. Expressions of interest, submitted in compliance with the above indications and within the deadline indicated in Article 5, will be taken into consideration for the Register establishment.
2. Applications will be subject to verification of formal regularity and completeness of the documentation submitted and then will be included in the Register. This Register may be re-opened as detailed in art. 5 point 8: it will be updated with expressions of interest that will be received within the deadline that will be decided.
3. The cancellation from the Register takes place in the case of:
 - a. serious non-compliance on the basis of University exclusive discretion;
 - b. assessment of the absence of the required requirements;
 - c. resignation from assignments without justifiable reason;
 - d. request of cancellation from the Register that will be presented by the expert.
4. Cancellation from the Register is communicated to the expert by certified e-mail.

Art. 7 Assignment to the Independent External Expert

1. The Experts will be identified by a special **Scientific Committee** (Commission) in compliance with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, equal treatment, proportionality and competition.

2. The Commission consisting of three to seven members, appointed by the Rector, will identify the Experts, on the basis of their specific skills and previous experience, as deduced from the examination of the documentation submitted at the time of submission of the application.
3. The assignment proposal will be communicated via certified e-mail to the e-mail address indicated in the Expression of Interest. Passed fruitlessly 3 days without the candidate's formal response in reply, another Expert will be identified.
4. The Experts identified will be appointed by decision of the Director General.
5. The Experts will be required to declare the absence of direct or indirect involvement and/or interest in the applications for funding (projects/services) they will have to evaluate, furthermore, to comply with the principles of independence and impartiality as well as the absence of causes of incompatibility, by filling in a form that will be provided for this purpose by the University.
6. The assignment decision will contain the subject, the method of execution of tasks to be carried out as listed in Article 8.
7. The participation in this notice is not binding for the purposes of assignment, in the same way admission to the Register does not imply any right to appointment which will take place only on needs basis.
8. The appointments will be made in compliance with the provisions of current legislation on self-employment relationships, as governed by Legislative Decree 165/2001 and subsequent amendments.
9. For anything not provided for in this Call, reference is made to the EU and national legislation in force on self-employment relationships.

Art. 8 Object of the Expert's activity and remuneration

1. The appointed Experts are required to:
 - a) formerly analyze the context documents with reference to cascade funding;
 - b) carry out the evaluation of the technical-scientific merit of the project proposals according to the criteria that will be indicated in the pertinent cascade funding;
 - c) draw up all the documentation necessary to provide the follow-up to the Scientific Committee referred to in Article 7 above, providing all the necessary insight information.
2. In order to carry out their activities, the Experts will have the access to the documentation necessary to carry out their duties and they will have the right to request additional information from the University.
3. The appointed Experts will receive a fee of **€ 300,00 (including all social security charges due)** for each project evaluated. The expert assessment activity will take place remotely.

Art. 9 Clarifications

Any needs of clarifications about this procedure may be sent by certified e-mail to the unimi@postecert.it address and, in copy, by ordinary e-mail to the e-mail gerado.derrico@unimi.it.

Art. 10 Person responsible for the procedure

The person responsible of this Call is Dr. Gerardo D'Errico, Head of the Research Management Sector of the Research Services Directorate of University of Milan.

Art. 11 Information on the personal data processing

1. The University is the Data Controller of personal data, pursuant to and for the purposes of EU Reg.to 2016/679 hereinafter referred to as the 'GDPR'. The personal data provided by candidates will be processed in accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003 and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation).
2. The candidate has the right to obtain from the Data Controller the cancellation (right to be forgotten), the limitation, the updating, the rectification, the portability, the opposition to the processing of personal data concerning him/her, as well as in general the possibility to exercise all the rights provided for by art. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 of the GDPR.

Art. 12 Legal publication

1. The University has the right to extend, suspend, revoke or amend all or part of this Call due to justified reasons.
2. This Call will be published in full on the University website below:
https://work.unimi.it/servizi_ricerca/bandi_finanz/130450.htm .

MILAN, ITALY

RESEARCH SERVICES DIRECTORATE

THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THIS CALL IS SIGNED IN ORIGINAL BY DR. ANGELO CASERTANO