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## European Research Council (ERC) - Seal of Excellence Action

### UniTrento Internal Call for Expression of Interest 2023

GIVEN the National Research Programme (PNR) 2021-2027, approved by the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning with Resolution No. 74/2020 of 15 December 2020;

HAVING REGARD to art. 1, paragraph 548, of law 178/2020 by which the Fund for the promotion and development of the National Research Programme policies was established;

CONSIDERING that with the Ministerial Decree of 25 June 2021, n. 737, published on 05/08/2021, the Ministry of University and Research has defined the criteria for the allocation and use of the resources of the Fund for the promotion and development of the policies of the National Research Programme for the period 2021/23;

CONSIDERING art. 1 of Directorial Decree n. 2181 of 16 September 2021 implementing the Ministerial Decree of 25 June 2021, n. 737, which states that the expenses related to the use of the above mentioned Fund must be finalised by 30 June 2025;

CONSIDERING the Programmatic Report of the initiatives to be implemented with the support of the Fund, submitted by the University of Trento YEAR 2021 - ID Request: DM7375QF41, and approved by a specific Ministerial Committee, which provides, in line with the University Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027, a research grant to UniTrento researchers who i) have submitted a project proposal to the Horizon Europe ERC – Starting Grant (StG), Consolidator Grant (CoG) or Advanced Grant (AdG) call 2022 with UniTrento as host institution, ii) have been scored A at the end of step 2 of the evaluation and iii) were listed in the panel specific shortlist, but could not be funded due to a lack of budget. The 18-month grant will be aimed at starting or implementing the research activity of the submitted ERC project proposal, in order to re-submit the ERC project proposal with UniTrento acting as Host Institution (Action 2.2);

HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED that the financial coverage of the selected researchers' grant will be ensured with the resources of the Ministerial Decree of 25 June 2021, n. 737 for the University of Trento – CUP E65F21004160001, until 30 June 2025;



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GIVEN the 2021-2023 PRO3 Planning, presented by the University of Trento pursuant to art. 4, co. 1 of Ministerial Decree n. 289 of 25 March 2021, and in particular Objective E - "Investing in the future of young researchers and university staff", which aims to encourage the autonomy of researchers in the early stages of their careers with the allocation of a research fund, in order to attract young researchers, and to encourage the participation of young researchers in competitive national and european calls with UniTrento acting as Host Institution;

GIVEN the 2022-2027 University of Trento Strategic Plan, in particular the Action aimed at strengthening the research quality of individual researchers;

GIVEN art. 17 of EU Regulation 2020/852, which defines the environmental objectives, including the principle of not causing significant harm (DNSH, *Do no significant harm*), and the Communication of the EU Commission 2021/C58/01 containing "Technical guidelines on the application of the principle "do not cause significant harm" under the regulation on the mechanism for recovery and resilience"

the University of Trento (UniTrento) announces

the **European Research Council (ERC) - Seal of Excellence Action**

**Internal Call for Expression of Interest 2023**

## **1. Aim of the Action**

The initiative is promoted within the framework of the 2022-2027 University Strategic Plan, in particular of the Action aimed at strengthening the research quality of individual researchers.

The Action will offer an 18-month research grant to UniTrento researchers who i) have submitted a project proposal to the Horizon Europe ERC – Starting Grant (StG), Consolidator Grant (CoG) or Advanced Grant (AdG) call 2022 with UniTrento as host institution, ii) have been scored A at the end of step 2 of the evaluation and iii) were listed in the panel specific shortlist, but could not be funded due to a lack of budget. The 18-month grant will be aimed at starting or implementing the research activity of the submitted ERC project proposal, in order to re-submit the ERC project proposal with UniTrento acting as Host Institution. The contribution for each research grant will be equal to 25.000 € for StG, 35.000 € for CoG and 45.000 € for AdG, for a maximum of three grants allocated per year.

The initiative will be proposed on a triennial basis, with call launched yearly.

## **2. Eligible applicants**

The internal selection is addressed to UniTrento researchers who:

- hold an employment contract with the University of Trento in force at the deadline of the call and within the whole duration of the grant;
- applied to the ERC – Starting Grant (StG), Consolidator Grant (CoG) or Advanced Grant (AdG) call 2022 with UniTrento as Host Institution and have been scored A at the end of step 2 of the evaluation;
- have been shortlisted in their specific panel, but could not be funded due to a lack of budget;
- meet the requirements provided for in the UniTrento Regulation n. 8 of 10 January 2018 “Regolamento per il reclutamento e la progressione di carriera di professori e di ricercatori e per il conferimento degli assegni di ricerca di cui all'art. 22, l. 240/2010”.

To achieve the objectives of the 2022-2027 University Strategic Plan and of the PNR and to implement the provisions therein, the project proposals submitted under the ERC\_Seal of Excellence call 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
- where relevant, comply with the “Do no significant harm” principle, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 in accordance with the technical guidelines prepared by the European Commission (Communication of the European Commission 2021/C58/01);
- promote the exploitation of research results and ensure the protection of intellectual property, ensuring open access to the public to research results and related data in the shortest time and with the least possible limitations, according to the principles of “Open science” and “FAIR Data”.

### **3. Submission**

Candidates must submit the following documentation:

- Expression of interest: a motivation letter signed by the candidate and the Director of the Department/Center where the research activity will take place (see attached model);
- Declaration of compliance with University Regulation no. 8 of 10 January 2018 “Regolamento per il reclutamento e la progressione di carriera di professori e di ricercatori e per il conferimento degli assegni di ricerca di cui all'art. 22, l. 240/2010” (see attached model);
- Declaration of fulfilment of the DNSH principle signed by the proponent (see attached model);



- Updated CV of the ERC proposal.

Applications must be sent in electronic format according to the template attached to this call to [research.support@unitn.it](mailto:research.support@unitn.it) by **8 May 2023**.

Please specify in the email subject: UniTrento ERC\_SoE\_2023\_name and surname of the applicant\_department/center.

#### **4. Evaluation procedure**

A list of eligible applications will be made based on the evaluation already made by the European Commission. Only applications that have been scored A at the end of step 2 of the evaluation and have been shortlisted in the panel specific pay-line in the ERC Starting Grant (StG), Consolidator Grant (CoG) or Advanced Grant (AdG) call 2022 will be considered eligible for funding. The University of Trento will appoint an internal Evaluation Committee composed by at least three University Professors, one for each ERC sector. The Commission will evaluate the motivation letter and the CV of the applicant and will decide the number of grants to be funded according to the available budget. The secretary of the Committee will be identified among the staff of the Directorate of Research Services and Valorisation. The Directorate of Research Services and Valorization will communicate the outcome of the assessment within 45 days after the call deadline.

#### **5. Funding**

The ERC Seal of Excellence 2023 funding is aimed at covering research expenses related to the research activity of the submitted ERC project proposal. The contribution for each research grant will be equal to 25.000 € for StG, 35.000 € for CoG and 45.000 € for AdG, for a maximum of three grants allocated per year. The amount of the contribution is to be understood as a lump sum payment. The funding will be suspended in case of termination of the employment contract with the University of Trento and/or after the new ERC submission.

#### **6. Reporting**

Funded applicants will have to submit a final report within 30 days after the end of the project, that should detail the activities developed and the corresponding expenses incurred.



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## 7. Public access to documents

The call and all the related documents will be published at the following webpage:

<https://www.unitn.it/ricerca/96149/attrazione-dei-talenti>

## 8. Personal data

According to art. 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679 "General Regulation on the protection of personal data", the University will process personal data collected within its institutional purposes exclusively for the purposes related to the carrying out of the selection procedure (art. 6, paragraph 1, letter e), art. 9, paragraph 2, letter g), art. 10 of the GDPR).

The Data Controller is the University of Trento, via Calepina n. 14, 38122 Trento, email: [ateneo@pec.unitn.it](mailto:ateneo@pec.unitn.it); [ateneo@unitn.it](mailto:ateneo@unitn.it). Data Protection Officer can be contacted at [rpd@unitn.it](mailto:rpd@unitn.it).

The processing of personal data will be carried out in paper form and / or computerized only by personnel authorized to process data in relation to the tasks and duties assigned and in compliance with the principles of lawfulness, correctness, transparency, adequacy, relevance and necessity.

At any time, the rights referred to in Articles 15 and following of the GDPR can be exercised against the Data Controller and, in particular, access to their personal data, rectification, integration, cancellation, limitation of the processing that concerns them and the right to oppose their treatment. The right to lodge a complaint with the Guarantor for the protection of personal data of art. 77 of the GDPR is reserved.

## Attachment 1: Application form