



Programme funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



ENI
CBCMED

Cooperating across borders
in the Mediterranean

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

for the setting up of two rosters of thematic experts in charge of supporting the Joint Monitoring Committee in the selection of the Programme priorities to be addressed by the call for strategic projects

Autonomous Region of Sardinia

Managing Authority of the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020

Authorising Section

Art. 1 - Background

The ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 is a EU co-financed programme part of the cross-border cooperation component within the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). It involves the regions of the European Union and those of the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) placed along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea Basin. The Joint Operational Programme (JOP) was adopted by the European Commission on 17 December 2015 with decision No C(2015) 9133.

The overall objective of the Programme is to foster fair, equitable and sustainable economic, social and territorial development, which may advance cross-border integration and valorise participating countries' territories and values.

13 countries are participating in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

The main management structures are the **Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)**, which is the decision-making body and is composed by the representatives of the countries participating in the Programme, and the **Managing Authority (MA)**, executive body and contracting authority of the Programme, responsible for its management and implementation.

The MA is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia and is located in Cagliari (Italy); it is supported by the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) and two Branch Offices, respectively located in Valencia (Spain) and Aqaba (Jordan) which ensure closer proximity with potential beneficiaries.

More information is available at www.enicbcmmed.eu.

The Programme aims at financing cross-border cooperation projects focusing on two overarching objectives:

A. Promote economic and social development

B. Address common challenges in the environment

Under the first overarching objective, three thematic objectives have been selected

A.1 - Business and SME development;

A.2 - Support to education, research, technological development and innovation

A.3 - Promotion of social inclusion and the fight against poverty

The second overarching objective includes one thematic objective, namely:

B.4 - Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation

Thematic objectives are further detailed through 11 Priorities. For more information on the strategic framework, please read paragraph 2.4 of the Joint Operational Programme "PROGRAMME PRIORITIES, EXPECTED RESULTS AND RELEVANT INDICATORS".

Projects financed by the Programme are selected through calls for proposals (standard, strategic and capitalisation). Projects evaluation is carried out by the Projects Selection Committee (PSC), which is composed by members appointed by the JMC. A first call for proposals for standard projects was launched in July 2017 and closed in January 2018. It covered the 4 thematic objectives and 11 priorities of the Programme.

Art. 2 - Main features of strategic projects

The call for strategic projects - expected to be published by the end of 2018 - is meant to “guarantee a deeper focus on emerging needs identified by Terms of Reference approved by the JMC. They will support an extended impact on the selected priorities and a clear contribution to EU and national policies in the region.”

One of the key features of the strategic projects is their thematic focus on some of the 11 priorities identified in the Joint Operational Programme, considering the relevance to the current main socio-economic and environmental challenges of the cooperation area. Furthermore, by bringing together key private and public actors, strategic projects are expected to foster significant change, through pilot actions, contributing at the same time to the development of new sector public policies. Strategic projects should foster long-lasting effects, beyond the financing provided by the Programme, and deliver tangible results that can be replicated across the Mediterranean area.

The budget dedicated to the call for strategic projects is € 84.6 million euros (EU contribution). Considering the importance of strategic projects in view of achieving the expected impact of the Programme, the financial dimension and partnership requirements are higher compared to the other types of the projects supported by the Programme, as seen in the table below:

	Standard	Strategic	Capitalisation
Minimum ceiling (EU contribution)	€1,000,000	€2,500,000	€500,000
Maximum ceiling (EU contribution)	€3,000,000	€6,000,000	€1,000,000
Minimum countries in partnership	3	4	5
Minimum MPC in partnership	1	2	1
Recommended maximum nr. of beneficiaries	7	10	10
Maximum beneficiaries from the same country	3	3	3
Maximum duration ¹	3 years	4 years	1-2 years

Art. 3 - Objectives of the call for expression of interest

The objective of this call is to recruit two thematic experts – one for each Programme’s overall objective – who will support the Joint Monitoring Committee in the selection of the priorities to be addressed by the call for strategic projects and design of the call’s terms of reference.

The call is open to natural persons only with reference to the following two profiles:

- **Profile A – Thematic expert in the field of socio-economic development (in charge of the analysis related to Programme’s overall objective A. “Promote economic and social development”)**
- **Profile B – Thematic expert in the environmental field (in charge of the analysis related to Programme’s overall objective B. “Address common challenges in the environment”)**

Interested candidates are invited to apply in accordance with the procedure described in article 9.

¹ The JMC may decide about further extension that could be granted to an approved project.

Please note that it is not allowed to apply for more than one profile. Candidates who apply for more than one profile will be excluded from the whole selection.

Art. 4 - Description of the assignment

The two experts will support the JMC in the identification of the most relevant priorities under each overarching objective and related thematic objectives. In particular, they will provide the JMC with an update of the context analysis on the socio-economic and environmental issues contained in the Joint Operational Programme (see paragraph 2.1 “THE SITUATION ANALYSIS: MAIN SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATE”) and a short report on priorities, expected results, indicative outputs and indicators, defining the best possible combination of priorities and expected results to be addressed by the strategic projects.

The experts’ proposals shall consider the key socio-economic and environmental trends of the area, relevance of all priorities as well as the results of the first call for proposals for standard projects along with the newly expressed medium term needs of the participating countries to be collected and analysed through national consultations.

The experts shall also consider the quality of the indicators included in the Programme indicative monitoring and evaluation plan (annex 2 of the Joint Operational Programme) and timely availability of key data in order to monitor and review the Programme implementation, proposing revisions and updates, if needed.

In particular, the assignment includes the following tasks:

- Reviewing the socio-economic and the environmental analysis included in the JOP and integrating its contents with relevant data and information (e.g. sector/thematic analysis, input provided by the JMC members and MA/JTS, relevant studies, etc.);
- Reporting on statistical data availability/source of verification in the Programme area at the most appropriate territorial level to update the JOP;
- Considering any thematic and territorial focus to increase the overall expected impact of the projects to be funded;
- Taking into account potential synergies and complementarities with all relevant programmes and initiatives mentioned in the JOP (see paragraph 2.7 “Coherence and complementarities”);
- Considering the main findings of the first call for proposals, in terms of number and type of projects submitted in all Programme Priorities;
- Collecting and analysing the inputs provided by the JMC during the national consultations to be carried out;
- Drafting the Terms of Reference on the thematic objectives to be addressed by the call for strategic projects, including concrete recommendations for the selection of a limited number of priorities according to the outcomes of the socio-economic and the environmental analysis and the national consultations;
- Reconsidering a realistic estimation of the target values and baselines reported in the indicative monitoring and evaluation plan (annex 2 of the JOP) for the identified indicators as the case may be, and verifying their measurability at reasonable costs recommending any changes, if needed;

- Revising and adapting the evaluation criteria applied for the first call for proposals in view of their approval by the JMC.

The indicative timeframe for completing the above mentioned tasks is estimated in about 30 working days within six months following the signature of the contract.

Art. 5 - Expected outputs to be delivered by the thematic experts

Each thematic expert is expected to deliver one report on the analysis carried out, of which general structure is described below:

- Executive summary of conclusions and recommendations resulting from the review of the selected thematic objectives/priorities/expected results (2-3 pages);
- Methodology, outlining the expert's approach implemented and sources of data and information used (1-2 pages);
- Summary of the national consultations (2-3 pages);
- Summary of the main strengths and potential risks of the proposed approach to the call for strategic projects (5-10 pages):
 - Emerging challenges and needs in the Mediterranean area;
 - Relevance of the proposed priorities/expected results to be addressed;
 - Expected synergies and complementarities at regional and national level to support the strategic projects implementation;
 - Expected contribution to the JOP in terms of results and output indicators and recalculation of the target values;
 - Evaluation criteria: proposals.
- Additional recommendations graded according to their importance (in terms of usefulness) (1-2 pages);

It is expected that the analysis will be easy to read, illustrative and well structured. The expert is not systematically required to provide scientific research. The quality of the evaluation will be assessed based on its usefulness for the definition of the Terms of Reference of the call for strategic projects.

Art. 6 - Application requirements

In order to be included in the rosters, candidates **must satisfy the following eligibility criteria**:

- Be citizen of Member State of the European Union, a country that is a beneficiary of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument, a country that is a beneficiary of Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council No 231/2014 of 11 March 2014, establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) or a Member State of the EEA or a country that is eligible according to articles 8 and 9 of the Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action;
- Possession of civil and political rights;
- Absence of sanctions under penal law or of on-going penal procedures;

- Never having been deprived nor laid off from public administration and having been deprived from a position in the public administration for having obtained it by supplying false or absolutely invalid documents.

Moreover, the following qualifications **must necessarily be fulfilled**:

- Have a level of education corresponding to completed university studies attested by a degree;
- Have at least 3 experiences in the evaluation of public policies and/or in the drafting of regional, national or international monitoring/evaluation studies at programme level, including tasks related to the identification, collection and analysis of statistical data and indicators, the elaboration of findings and recommendations. In order to be considered, the experience declared by the candidates shall be consistent with the Programme's priorities included in the chosen overarching objective (socio-economic development or environmental sustainability);
- Possess demonstrated, sound report writing skills;
- Have an advanced command of English² (understanding, speaking, writing) together with good reading skills in French³;
- Have an advanced knowledge of the main IT tools regarding data entry, word processing, spreadsheet, in particular those necessary for the data analysis and representation through tables and charts, and electronic communications.

Finally, the following qualifications **will be considered as assets**:

- Professional experience in international cooperation and/or EU-funded cooperation programmes, involving Mediterranean Partner Countries⁴, in particular in EU Cross-Border Cooperation programmes;
- Professional experience in the identification, analysis and collection of indicators at Mediterranean level;
- Advanced command⁵ of French and/or Arabic (understanding, speaking).

Candidates shall possess the requested qualifications and experiences by the deadline for the submission of applications. Please note that the possession of all requirements must clearly result from the documents submitted by candidates (Request for participation and Curriculum Vitae)⁶.

To ensure the independence of the experts, the candidates who have been direct beneficiaries of the Programme (grant recipients) will not be considered. All candidates must declare that they have not been involved in the design and/or implementation of ENPI/ENI CBC Med projects including their technical assistance. Moreover, candidates shall confirm that they are independent from any Applicants or partners involved in ENI CBC Med calls for proposals.

² At least corresponding to the C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (see the self-assessment grid at: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/LanguageSelfAssessmentGrid/en>).

³ At least corresponding to the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (see the self-assessment grid at: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/LanguageSelfAssessmentGrid/en>).

⁴ Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon.

⁵ At least corresponding to the C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (see the self-assessment grid at: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/LanguageSelfAssessmentGrid/en>).

⁶ The description of the experience and skills acquired must be included in the CV, which will be used as a document that justifies what was stated in the request for participation.

Art. 7 - Selection procedure

A dedicated evaluation commission, established by the MA, will check the formal regularity of the submitted applications and will exclude the candidates who do not satisfy the necessary requirements foreseen in article 6 of this call. Candidates satisfying all the necessary requirements will be included in two shortlists (one for each Programme's overarching objective), from which two experts will be selected according to the following criteria, listed by importance:

- Higher number of relevant experiences in the evaluation of public policies and/or in the drafting of regional, national or international monitoring/evaluation studies at programme level, including tasks related to the identification, collection and analysis of statistical data and indicators, the elaboration of findings and recommendations;
- Higher number of experiences including the identification, analysis and collection of indicators within the Mediterranean cooperation area;
- Advanced command⁷ of French (understanding, speaking);
- Advanced command⁸ of Arabic (understanding, speaking).

In case of equal qualifications, priority will be given to the youngest candidate.

Art. 8 - Validity of the shortlists

The two shortlists of experts, constituted on the basis of the present call, will be valid for 3 years after its publication.

Art. 9 - Application procedure

Under penalty of exclusion, applicants shall submit the following documents, **completed only in English**:

1. **Request for participation.** Under penalty of exclusion, it must be hand written signed; the format (Attachment A), available on the Programme website www.enicbcmmed.eu, must be used (other formats will not be considered).
2. **Curriculum Vitae** dated and signed according to the European format (Attachment B) available on the Programme website www.enicbcmmed.eu.
3. A **cover letter** describing briefly the experience, qualifications, skills and motivation to perform the tasks for which the application is submitted, shall be attached to the request for participation (maximum one page in English).
4. A copy of a **valid Identification Document** shall be attached to the application.

Documents listed from point 1) to point 3) shall be submitted in original version.

Applications not including all the above mentioned documents will be rejected.

The envelope shall be closed and shall indicate the wording **“ENI CBC MED – Call for Thematic Experts – Profile (indicate the relevant profile A or B). DO NOT OPEN – NON APRIRE”**.

⁷ At least corresponding to the C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (see the self-assessment grid at: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/LanguageSelfAssessmentGrid/en>).

⁸ At least corresponding to the C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (see the self-assessment grid at: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/LanguageSelfAssessmentGrid/en>).

Under penalty of exclusion, applications shall be sent by **08/06/2018**, by registered mail with return receipt, private-courier service or hand-delivered (Monday to Friday, from 10.00 to 13.00, and, only on Wednesday, from 16.00 to 18.00), to the following address:

Regione Autonoma della Sardegna – Presidenza

Autorità di Gestione del Programma “ENI CBC Bacino del Mediterraneo”

Via Bacaredda, 184 - 09127 Cagliari (Italy)

Applications sent or hand-delivered after the above-mentioned deadline will not be taken into consideration. The postmark or international express courier accompanying note is considered as a proof of postage date.

In any case, under penalty of exclusion, applications duly sent within the deadline of **08/16/2018**, shall be received by the MA **no later than 15/06/2018**. The MA cannot be in any case held responsible for possible late delivery or loss of applications. Applicants shall thus take all measures to ensure the respect of the deadline for receipt.

The declarations contained in the application are subject to controls, as per Italian decree 445/2000 and its modifications and integrations. On top of the penal sanctions foreseen by article 76 of the decree n. 445 of 28.12.2000 in case of false declarations, if the controls reveal that the content of the declarations is false, the concerned person will be excluded.

Art. 10 - Contracting and payment arrangements

Before signing the contract, the selected candidates may be requested to present supporting documents (i.e., copy of university degree, certificates of working experience, etc.). The MA may not sign the contract with an expert who will not be able to certify the declarations contained in the request for participation and in the CV. The contract will be drafted in Italian language and is subject to the provisions of the relevant Italian fiscal and labour legislation applying to temporary contracts⁹.

The selected candidates will be offered a short-term temporary contract under Italian legislation. The estimated value of each contract is approximately **€ 15.000,00** (gross amount including taxes and social security contribution to be paid by the experts, excluding those due by the contracting administration, and VAT as the case may be).

Payment will be made upon delivery of the final version of report to be drafted by the experts.

Experts may be requested to attend coordination meetings with the Managing Authority and to present the result of their work during the meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee.

The expert is entitled to an additional fee compensating the time dedicated to these meetings, estimated in EUR 500 (duties and taxes included, excluding those due by the contracting administration) per working day. The total number of working days included in the fee will be defined taking into account also the days necessary for travelling, depending on the selected experts residence and/or domicile.

No additional reimbursement for travel and accommodation costs is foreseen.

The bank account details (name of the bank, account holder, IBAN/BIC/SWIFT numbers) are specified in the contract. Any change during the implementation of the contract should be officially communicated to the MA.

⁹ This selection procedure is ruled in particular by the provisions of article 6 bis, paragraph 2, of regional law n. 31 of 13/11/1998.

In terms of taxes, Italian regulations apply. For Italian residents withholding taxes will be deducted, equivalent to 20% of the total gross amount.

For non Italian residents, the contracting authority avails itself of the option, provided by the Italian Decree 600/73, articles 24 and 25, not to apply the fiscal conventional regime on double taxation and to deduct a flat tax-rate equivalent to 30% of the total gross amount¹⁰.

Moreover, mandatory social security contributions are also deductible from the taxable income, under certain conditions¹¹.

Before the payment, the MA will check the quality of the work carried out. In case the work carried out by the expert is of poor quality, delayed or not in line with the contract and Programme documents, the MA will ask the expert to revise or complement his report. If the expert does not provide satisfactory amendments/supplements, the MA will be allowed to reduce the remuneration **up to 50%** of the amount due.

Art. 11 - Working modalities

Experts will be required to carry out their tasks remotely using their own tools at their habitual working place according to the time schedule as agreed with the MA.

Art. 12 - Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest exists if the impartial and objective function of an expert is jeopardized for reasons involving family, emotional life or political affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest with potential project applicants/partners.

At the time of the appointment, selected experts will be required to sign a declaration in which they confirm to refrain from offering their services to potential Applicants/partners in the strategic call for proposals or to organizations being awarded a grant (Beneficiaries and partners).

The role of thematic expert is incompatible with:

- Being a voting or a non-voting member of the Projects Selection Committee and of the Joint Monitoring Committee;
- Being national contact point/person in charge of giving general information to potential applicants.

Art. 13 - Confidentiality

Experts will have to observe complete confidentiality of the information and documents brought to their attention as well as on the contents of their work, until the terms of reference of the call for strategic projects are published on the Programme website. In this regards they will have to sign a declaration of confidentiality in which they commit not to disclose any information related to their work.

Art. 14 - Personal data treatment

Personal data submitted by the experts will be only used for the participation to the selection procedure and for the possible signature of a contract with the Managing Authority, according to the law in force (Legislative Decree N. 196/2003 and EU Reg. 2016/679).

¹⁰ A claim for reimbursement of Italian taxes, as provided in the relevant double taxation treaties concluded by Italy, can be submitted to the Pescara Tax Office, within 48 months from the date on which the Italian withholding tax was retained. For more information, please visit the website http://www1.agenziaentrate.gov.it/english/individuals/double_taxation_relief_individuals/conventions_avoidance_DT.htm

¹¹ According to the Italian legislation, if, during the year of payment, the expert has received more than EUR 5.000,00 as fees for other temporary contracts, a contribution for the Italian Institute for the Social Welfare (INPS) shall be paid.

Art. 15 - Publication of the call and results of the selection

This call is available, in Italian, English and French, on the official website of the Programme: www.enicbcmmed.eu as well as in the official website of the Sardinia Region www.regione.sardegna.it. In case of differences among the three versions, the Italian version prevails.

The results of the procedure will be published on the Programme website www.enicbcmmed.eu as well as on the official website of the Sardinia Region www.regione.sardegna.it.

Art. 16 - Applicable law

Any dispute arising from the present procedure shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Cagliari.

Art. 17 - Various and final provisions

The MA reserves the right to modify, extend, suspend entirely or partially or revoke this call. The participation in the selection procedure involves the implicit and unconditional acceptance of the provisions of this call.

For any further information, please contact the MA by email: eni.management@regione.sardegna.it.

Art. 18 - Person in charge of the procedure

The person in charge of the procedure is **Mrs. Daniela Boi**.

The Acting Director of the Authorising Unit

Daniela Boi