



Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

NEXT MED

Interreg NEXT MED Programme

Call for expression of interest to set-up a
roster of external experts

CUP E24D24001730006

Update Profile B Roster – State Aid
experts



REGIONE AUTÓNOMA
DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA
DELLA SARDEGNA

#everythingMEDpossible





INDEX

Art. 1 Background information	3
Art.2 Assessment procedure	4
Please note that being registered in the rosters does not imply any obligations to award a contract to the experts.....	5
Art. 3 Description of tasks.....	5
Art. 4 Selection Criteria	6
Art. 5 Application procedure	7
Art. 6 Selection procedure	7
Art. 7 Validity of the Rosters	8
Art. 8 Contracting and conditions of employment	8
Art. 9 Working modalities/Other terms of the assignment/Fees and payment modalities	8
Art. 10 Conflict of interest	9
Art. 11 Confidentiality	10
Art. 12 Personal data treatment.....	10
Art. 13 Publication of the call and results of the selection procedure	10
Art. 14 Applicable law	10
Art. 15 Final provisions.....	10
Art.16 Person in charge of the procedure.....	10



Art. 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Interreg NEXT MED is a Programme funded by the European Union (EU) that supports transnational cooperation through the financing of joint projects which aim at making the Mediterranean area more resilient to the shared challenges it faces.

NEXT MED is part of Interreg¹, a key instrument of the European Union which promotes European territorial cooperation across borders by means of joint Programmes, projects and networks among national, regional and local actors from different EU Member States and among EU actors and adjacent non-EU countries, partner countries, overseas countries and territories (OCTs).

In light of the positive EU cooperation with neighbouring countries placed along the EU external borders from the Northern Periphery to the Mediterranean region and from Atlantic to Black Sea Basin – established under European Neighborhood Policy and funded by the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) for the period 2007-2013 and further reconfirmed under the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) for the period 2014-2020 – the external dimension of EU territorial cooperation with partner and IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance) countries is governed by the EU Cohesion Policy for the period 2021-2027 and the Programmes will be fully part of Interreg under the NEXT (acronym for “Neighborhood External”) component.

Building on the experience and results of ENPI (2007-2013) and ENI (2014-2020) cross-border cooperation (CBC) ‘Mediterranean Sea Basin’ (MED) Programmes, Interreg NEXT MED will continue to support effective Euro-Mediterranean relations for the period 2021-2027 as part of Interreg strand B “Transnational Cooperation”.

With a budget of €263 million, Interreg NEXT MED aims at contributing to smart, sustainable, fair development for all across the Mediterranean basin by supporting balanced, long-lasting, far-reaching cooperation and multilevel governance. The Programme mission is to finance transnational cooperation projects that address joint socio-economic, environmental and governance challenges at Mediterranean level such as the uptake of advanced technologies, competitiveness of SMEs and job creation, energy efficiency, water management, climate change adaptation, transition to a circular and resource efficient economy, education and training, health care.

The Cooperation Programme focuses on the following 4 Priorities and 9 Specific Objectives:

The following table shows the 4 Programme Priorities and related 9 Specific Objectives:

¹Available at https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/cooperation/european-territorial_en



Priorities	Specific Objectives
1. A more competitive and smarter Mediterranean	1.1 Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
	1.2 Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments
2. A greener, low-carbon and resilient Mediterranean	2.1 Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
	2.2 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem-based approaches
	2.3 Promoting access to water and sustainable water management
	2.4 Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
3. A more social and inclusive Mediterranean	3.1 Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training
	3.2 Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care
4.A better cooperation governance for the Mediterranean	4.1 Other governance actions: Fostering local governance models and processes through cross-sectoral, multilevel and cross-border partnerships, encouraging the cooperation and dialogue between citizens, civil society actors and institutions in view of addressing issues of joint interest at local level through transnational exchanges, bottom-up and participatory approaches

The Interreg NEXT MED Programme document, approved by the European Commission on the 12th of December 2022 n. C (2022) 9543 and modified on 15.12.2023 EC decision n. 9118, offers a detailed description of the content of each Priority².

Projects financed by the Programme are selected through calls for proposals. The first call for the submission of project proposals is currently being published. The call concerns the 4 priorities of the Programme and the related specific objectives, with three different categories of projects that will be funded: thematic projects, youth-oriented projects and governance projects. For further details, please refer to the published documentation³.

Art.2 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

The evaluation of proposals is carried out in two (2) steps.

² Programme Document available at: [Reference documents - Interreg NEXT MED](#)

³ Please see <https://www.interregnextmed.eu/apply-for-funding/first-call-for-proposals/>





NEXT MED

- Step 1
 - Administrative compliance checks of the project proposal (performed by staff of Managing Authority (MA), the Joint Secretariat (JS) and the Branch Offices (BOs))
 - Operational evaluation i.e. evaluation of the quality and feasibility of the project carried out by thematic experts in the subjects referred to in the specific objectives of the Programme (see table above).
- Step 2
 - Strategic evaluation: consisting of the strategic evaluation, performed by the Assessment Board (AB) (the AB is set up by the Monitoring Committee (MC) composed of one representative and one substitute for each participating country).
 - Verification of the eligibility of Applicants' and partners' organisations performed by staff of Managing Authority (MA), the Joint Secretariat (JS) and the Branch Offices (BOs).
 - Verification of the compliance with State Aid by expert evaluators, in accordance with the EU Regulation no. 1059/2021 and EU Regulation 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 which modifies the n. 651/2014 governing the exemption regime which concerns the notification to the European Union of state aid payable to companies.
 - Verification of potential effects on the environment by environmental experts pursuant to art. 22.4 (j) of EU regulation no. 1059/2021.

Interested candidates, having the requirements specified below, are invited to submit the application in order to constitute a list of highly qualified experts to support the Managing Authority⁴ for the evaluation of the project proposals presented, as specified below:

- *Profile B* – **State Aid Experts**

Please note that the Managing Authority is under no obligation to contract the experts included in the roster.

Art. 3 DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

In the framework of the Interreg Next Med Programme, the main duties of the contracted Experts include the general and specific tasks detailed below and any other related task required by the MA to fully complete the proposals' assessments / verification:

General tasks

- support to the Assessment Board (AB), ensuring the necessary expertise upon request
- participation in trainings organized by the MA/JS (*online mode*)⁵ related to: Interreg NEXT MED Programme Document, regulatory framework, Guidelines for Applicants and Application Pack of each call for proposals, Guidelines for the evaluation and selection of project proposals, etc.

⁴Please see the documents related to the Call for Proposals available at: <https://www.interregnextmed.eu/apply-for-funding/first-call-for-proposals/submit-a-proposal/>

⁵ The training is mandatory in order to sign the contract.





- where needed, assistance in defining responses to requests for clarifications.

Specific Tasks for Profile B - State aid experts

State aid experts will assist the AB by determining the presence and value of State Aid, pursuant to EU Regulation 2023/1315 which modifies the n. 651/2014 (so-called GBER Regulation), EU Regulation no. 1059/2021, as detailed in the documents related to the call for proposals.

The verification will aim to determine whether the planned activities constitute state aid and their value, as declared by the candidates under their own responsibility in the self-declaration form.

The experts will fill in a state aid checklist for each project examined with an indication of the reasons, the regulatory references and the formulation of any clauses to be included in the draft contracts. In addition to the general tasks mentioned above, the state aid experts will guarantee:

- acquaintance with relevant documents concerning State Aid (e.g. relevant EU regulations, Informative Note on State Aid).
- verification of the project proposals during STEP2, through specific check lists on State Aid checks provided by the MA;
- provision of additional comments regarding the evaluation of state aid aspects at the request of the MA, the Assessment Board and the MC;
- in exceptional situations, attendance in the meetings of the Assessment Board as observers to present the results of their assessment and answer questions from Assessment Board members.

Art. 4 SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the selection criteria as detailed herewith.

- 1) have a level of education corresponding to a completed university degree attested by a diploma (undergraduate/bachelor);
- 2) at least 5 years of professional experience in the specific profile;
- 3) be fluent in speaking, reading and writing in English or French, at least level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) - knowledge of both languages and the possession of communication skills at C1+ level in the language of specialization will be an advantage;
- 4) have proper IT literacy necessary to complete the assignment;
- 5) absence of any conflict of interest from any Programme bodies or Programme projects applicants or beneficiaries involved in the calls for proposals;

⁶ Please consult <https://www.regione.sardegna.it/regione/strutture-di-garanzia/responsabile-protezione-dati/documenti-e-normativa/informativa-ai-sensi-dell-articolo-13-14-del-regolamento-2016-679>





Specific criteria – Profile B – State Aid Expert

- have a proven experience in the application of the EU state aid discipline as well as knowledge of judgments provided by the European Union Court of Justice;
- experience in the application of the state aid discipline in the framework of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes would be an advantage.

Art. 5 Application procedure

In order to be considered for the selection process candidates are invited to apply English, French which are the working languages of Interreg NEXT MED Programme.

Candidates must submit the following application package in PDF version:

- a) **Application form duly completed, dated and signed** for Profile B.
- b) Professional CV, dated and signed, in **European format**.

The documents referred to the points a),b) must be digitally signed or with scanned signature and with a scanned identity document (pdf).

Incomplete applications, not including all the above-mentioned documents, may be rejected.

Applications must only be sent by email to:

roster.nextmed@regione.sardegna.it

Closing date: Application must be sent by 11th of November 2024 at 23:59 Central Europe Time (CET).

Art. 6 Selection procedure

The Operational and authorization Unit of the Managing Authority check the applications exclusively aimed at verifying the relevance and compatibility of the qualifications and experience acquired in relation to the professional position to be held and reserves the right to check the authenticity of the data entered in the Curriculum Vitae.

All candidates who meet the specified requirements will be entered, in alphabetical order, in a list, which will be approved by the Operational and authorization Unit of the Managing Authority and published on the website of the Interreg Programme NEXT MED 2021-2027 <http://www.interregnextmed.eu>.

The inclusion in the list does not provide for set up a roster and the Operational and authorization Unit of the Managing Authority will use the list to select the experts who, from the examination of the CV, will be correspondents to the requirements of realization of the activities.

The Authorizing Unit has no obligation to proceed with the assignment of the aforementioned roles which are only planned but not established. These roles will be assigned according to the forms





established by the law of occasional self-employment or similar appointments. The payment due is defined according to the art. 9.

Art. 7 Validity of the Rosters

The list of experts, drawn up on the basis of this call, remains valid for entire Programme Implementation period 2021-2027 and may be reopened and updated.

Experts already enlisted as profile B experts do not have to send their applications again.

Art. 8 Contracting and conditions of employment

The number of experts to be contracted will depend on the specific needs of the MA in consideration of the number of project proposals received.

The selection of the experts and their appointment for the assessment will be based on the criteria set under article 4.

Before signing the contract with the Authorizing Unit of the MA, the selected candidates may be requested to submit supporting documents (i.e., copy of university degreecertificates of working experience, etc.). The Authorizing Unit of the MA may not sign the contracts with the candidates who will not be able to certify the declarations contained in the application and in the CV.

The assignment of the project proposals procedure will ensure transparency and balanced representation of participating countries, while respecting equality of opportunities and non-discrimination principles.

The indicative number of proposals to be assessed by each expert and the deadline to complete the tasks, as well as the indicative date of the training session will be explicitly communicated by the Authorizing Unit of the MA before signing the contract in order to enable the expert to verify his/her availability to fulfill all tasks in time.

The expert will receive the appointment letter, specifying the timeframe and the total number of project proposals assigned, which must be returned signed for acceptance. Further assignments will be made using the same procedure. The appointment letters shall form the contract.

Experts will be free to resign from the roster,

Art. 9 Working modalities/Other terms of the assignment/Fees and payment modalities

Meetings and trainings will be held *on line*. The training is compulsory for all evaluators.

Experts will be required to carry on their tasks remotely using their own tools. The assessment of the assigned applications shall be performed and finalized online using Programme IT tool for project assessment.



The number of applications which will be assigned to an expert may vary depending on the thematic scope and number of proposals received and will be agreed between the expert and the Authorizing Unit of the MA.

Following the project assessment carried out for the Programme, **the State aid expert profile B** shall be entitled to a fee of: 350,00 euro (three hundred and fifty euro) including VAT and any other taxes, for each assessed application.

Art. 10 Conflict of interest

At the time of the appointment, selected experts are required to sign a declaration of impartiality stating that no conflict of interest exists and that they undertake to inform the Authorizing Unit of the MA if any situation of conflict, even potential, or external attempt to interfere occurs while carrying out their duties.

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 the project applicants.

Experts must be independent and must not assess applications submitted by institutions or individuals with whom they have a personal link and they shall engage themselves not to offer their services to successful project applicants or partners that they have assessed.

The role of external expert is incompatible with:

- being a voting or a non-voting member of the AB and of the Monitoring Committee;
- being permanently or temporarily employed by the Authorizing Unit of the MA, the Joint Secretariat or the Branch Offices;
- being national contact point/person in charge of giving general information to potential applicants;
- participate in working groups of the advisory service providers in the Authorising and Operational Unit of the MA;
- being/having been employed by or providing/having provided (in the past one year) any services to organizations involved in the project proposals (meaning by/to applicants, partners or other subjects involved in project activities as subcontractor).
- being/having been employed by or providing/having provided (in the past one year from the date of publication of the call for proposals) any services, within organizations involved at different levels in the project proposals (applicants, partners, subcontractors, beneficiaries of sub-grants or other) that may be assessed.



Art. 11 Confidentiality

Experts will have to observe complete confidentiality of the information and documents brought to their attention during the whole evaluation process as well as on the results of the evaluation. To this regard, they will have to sign a declaration of confidentiality in which they commit not to disclose any information related to the project's evaluation process.

Art. 12 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 Authorizing Unit of the MA, in compliance with the terms and indications of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation), as specified in the "Information note on personal data treatment according to GDPR" (Annex IV)⁶.

Art. 13 Publication of the call and results of the selection procedure

This call is available on the official website of the Programme: www.interregnextmed.eu in English and French.

The results of the procedure will be published on the website of the Programme www.interregnextmed.eu and on the official website of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia www.regione.sardegna.it

Art. 14 Applicable law

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

Art. 15 Final provisions

The Authorizing Unit of 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 person in charge of the procedure by email: roster.nextmed@regione.sardegna.it

Art.16 Person in charge of the procedure

In charge as responsible for the procedure is the Head of Authorising and operational Unit of the Unit of the MA.

⁶ Please consult <https://www.regione.sardegna.it/regione/strutture-di-garanzia/responsabile-protezione-dati/documenti-e-normativa/informativa-ai-sensi-dell-articolo-13-14-del-regolamento-2016-679>