



RECTORAL DECREE n. 346 of 18 March 2022

THE RECTOR

Having regard to the current Statute of the University of Florence;

Having regard to the current Rules on Administration, Finance and Accounting;

Having regard to the National Research Programme (PNR) 2021-2027;

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 Ministerial Decree 737/2021, published on 5/8/2021, 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;

Noting that with the resolutions of 14 October 2021 the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors approved the Programme Report including the initiatives that the University intends to implement pursuant to Ministerial Decree 737/2021;

Considering that the Ministry of University and Researcher with note prot. 336818 of 21.12.2021 has proposed the admission to funding of all initiatives proposed by the University;

Considering that within the Programme Report the following Action has been foreseen: *"Initiatives in support of international working groups of young post-doctoral researchers (along the lines of the "Young Independent Research Groups (YIRG)" promoted by the Austrian Research Fund)"* and that it has been envisaged the publication in 2022 of a Call for proposals *for the funding of research projects of young independent researchers within the scope of the National Research Programme strategic goals*. The above-mentioned call is intended to support innovative and multidisciplinary projects, with a duration of 24 months, promoted by Young Independent Researchers. At least one of the proposers should have not resided or carried out his or her main activity (study/work) in Italy for more than 12 months in the three years before the deadline of the call;

Having regard to the resolutions of the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors, which in their meetings of 16 and 25 February respectively, approved the issuing of the *"University call for proposals for the funding of research projects by young independent researchers within the scope of the National Research Programme 2021/27 strategic goals"*, lasting 24 months, with a total budget of €900,000.00;

Considering that the call is part of the initiatives funded by the European Union - Next GenerationEU;

Noting that from 8 April 2021 the legislation implementing the reform of the "Codice Unico di Progetto" is in force and that the CUP attributed to the University initiatives pursuant to Ministerial Decree 737/2021 is the following **B55F21007810001**;



DECREES

the launch of the University 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

Art. 1 – Opening of selection procedures

The call is aimed at supporting research projects with the objective of promoting the widespread and inclusive growth of the research system; consolidating fundamental research, strengthening interdisciplinary research, accompanying the development of a new generation of researchers; promoting the international dimension of higher education and research.

The 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

The **budget** available amounts to **900,000.00 euros**. Each project shall have a fixed duration of **24 months** and may apply for a **maximum funding** of **300,000.00 euros**.

Article 2 – 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. Possible replacements of the Team Leader and Team Members shall be assessed by UNIFI Research Committee (Commissione Ricerca), provided that the criteria set out in the call for proposals are respected. In the composition of the research group, proper attention shall be paid to gender balance.

Proposers (Team Leaders and Team Members) must meet the following requirements at the call deadline:

- **have been awarded the PhD title no more than 5 years prior to the call deadline.** The date of award of the PhD is the date of the discussion of the doctoral thesis.
- **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;
- 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. In calculating the 6 years, the period in which the grant has been used in conjunction with a PhD without a grant is not relevant, up to the maximum legal duration of the relevant course.

The members of the group must have different and complementary scientific expertise.

Proposers (Team Leaders and Team Members) may **only** feature in **one project proposal**.

Art. 3 - Characteristics of projects

The projects, with a **two-year duration** and **multidisciplinary in nature**, must be consistent with the broad research and innovation areas set out in the 2021-2027 National Research Programme intervention areas referred to in Article 1, and demonstrate how the proposed activities contribute to these strategic objectives.

The project will be carried out at the University of Florence and one or more UNIFI Departments must be identified to carry out the proposed activities consistent with the project themes. 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.

Art. 4- Project proposal

The project proposal consists of the following parts:

Part A:

- project title and acronym
- contact details of the team leader and team members (at least 3) including a brief description of their scientific skills and expertise and relevant ERC fields;
- the priority of the National Research Programme 2021/2027 (PNR) to which the project is related;
- one main ERC area and any relevant ERC sub-areas;
- at least four keywords.

Part B: detailed description of the project including (max. 20 pages, excluding bibliography):

- **Quality** (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) - Max 8 pages
- **Implementation** (Work plan, Management structures and procedures, Financial aspects) - Max 8 pages
- **Impact** (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) - Max 4 pages

Part C: Curriculum vitae and publications of the Team Leader and Team Members consistent with the content 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.

Each proposer (Team Leader and Team Members) must also declare:

- Not having been convicted of any criminal offences in Italy or abroad and not being subject of any measures concerning the application of preventive measures, civil decisions or administrative provisions entered in the judicial records pursuant to current legislation, or having been convicted of any criminal offences (in relation to which please indicate the date of the sentence, the judicial authority and the type of judgment/ruling, the rules violated, the number of proceedings and the penalties incurred);
- Not being aware of any pending criminal proceedings, or being in the process of criminal proceedings. In the latter case, please indicate the offences for which criminal proceedings are pending, the authority and the status of the proceedings;
- Not having been dismissed from any previous employment with a public administration due to persistent inadequate performance, or having been declared ineligible from another public service pursuant to Article 127 letter d) of the Consolidated Law of 10 January 1957, no. 3, for having obtained the job by producing false documents or documents with non-removable invalidity, or having been dismissed from the service due to disciplinary action;
- enjoying civil and political rights;

The proposal must be drafted in English using the proposed templates.

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 for **free, on-line access** (at least in green access mode) to the **results obtained** and to the contents of the research subject to "peer reviewed" scientific publications, in journals with a frequency of at least six months, within the scope of the project, unless the rights to the results of the research, development and innovation activities are protected under the code pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraphs 2 and 2 bis, of Decree-Law No. 91 of 8 August 2013, converted with amendments by Law No. 112 of 7 October 2013. 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.



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.

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*”.

Art. 5 - Funding and Eligible Expenses

The total funding requested by each proposal must range between **EUR 180,000.00** and **EUR 300,000.00**.

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:** costs related to the contracting of the team leader and team members, corresponding for the team leader to a research grant of €33,000.00 per year (gross administrative cost) and for the team members to research grants of €30,000.00 per year (gross administrative cost) per person. The person in charge of each research grant is the Director of the hosting Department. The grants are activated pursuant to art.13 of the University Regulations for the granting of Research Grants, D.R. 550 of 14/05/2020. Costs for the recruitment of additional staff necessary for the implementation of the project activities are allowed. They must consist of ad hoc contracts to recruit personnel working full time for the project proposal: additional research grants may be requested. The recruitment of PhD students is not allowed.
- b. **other operating costs:** by way of example, but not limited to, consumables, costs for publications (including open access publications), missions and participation in dissemination events, expenses for the dissemination of project results provided that they are incurred expressly for the project and strictly related to it.

Equipment costs are not eligible, nor are the costs of structured staff possibly involved in the projects. Costs deriving from internal debit notes of the University of Florence are not allowed.



The proposed budget must be drawn up using the proposed form and following the instructions included therein.

Art. 6 - Applications and deadlines

Proposals, drawn up in English, must be submitted by the Team Leader from 10.00 a.m. of 31/03/2022 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.**

The date of submission of the application is certified by the application system, which will no longer allow changes to be made once the deadline for submission has expired. Proposals submitted by any other mean will be disregarded.

The Team Leader shall use his/her personal UNIFI credentials to access the application. If he/she doesn't belong to the University of Florence, he/she shall request access to the application system by writing to ricercaue@unifi.it no later than 3 working days prior to the call deadline.

Each Team Leader may submit only one application.

Art. 7 - Evaluation Committee

The evaluation procedure referred to in Article 9 below 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 are chosen among the academic staff of the University of Florence.



The members of the Commission must issue a declaration of absence of incompatibility and observance of the principles of ethics and confidentiality (pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28 December 2000). Furthermore, the members of the Commission 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 art. 2 of this call for applications. In the case of qualifications obtained abroad, equivalence with the corresponding Italian qualification is verified by the Commission solely for the purposes of participation in the specific selection.

Article 8 - Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be assessed according to the following **evaluation criteria**:

EVALUATION CRITERIA	MAXIMUM SCORE
1. Quality of the research project	50 Minimum threshold 35/50
a) Coherence of the proposed themes with the strategic areas identified in the National Research Programme 2021/27	10
b) Innovativeness and interdisciplinary aspects	10
c) Methodology	10
d) Profile of the proposing researchers	10
e) Coherence of the expertise and competences of the proposers with the project topics	10
2. Impact of the research project	25 Minimum threshold 15/25



a) Expected impacts;	10
b) Capacity for innovation and integration of new knowledge;	7,5
c) Effectiveness of the proposed measures for dissemination, communication and exploitation of results;	7,5
3) Quality and efficiency of the implementation of the research project	25 Minimum threshold 15/25
a) Coherence of work plan, division of tasks and resources;	9
b) Quality of the participants, both individually and as a research team;	8
c) Respect for gender balance;	2
d) Appropriateness of the budget.	6
TOTAL SCORE	100

Art. 9 - Evaluation of project proposals

Applications will be subject to an **external evaluation**.

The Evaluation Committee referred to in art. 7, in compliance with the criterion of scientific competence, shall assign each project, by means of a specific telematic procedure, to **three national or international external reviewers**, selected from the register of scientific experts of the MUR (REPRISE), or from any other databases, including European and international ones.

The selected auditors, at the same time as accepting the evaluation of the individual projects, must issue a declaration of absence of incompatibility and observance of the deontological principles of confidentiality (pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of D.P.R. 28 December 2000, no. 445).

In addition, the selected reviewers 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;
- have served in the University of Florence for five years prior to the publication of the call for applications.



Each reviewer, working remotely, draws up independently and without contact with the other reviewers of the same project, who remain anonymous, the "evaluation sheet" in which he/she highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the project and expresses for each criterion a numerical score accompanied by a brief justification.

At the end of the evaluation process, the Commission examines the scores assigned by each reviewer and determines the final score for each project by applying a "weighted" average, i.e. by weighting more the two most consistent evaluations.

In the event of a tie vote, the Commission will favor the project which received the highest score under item "1) Quality of the research project"; in the event of a further tie vote, the project coordinated by the youngest Team Leader.

Taking into account the overall scores and the available resources, the Evaluation Committee shall propose a **merit list of projects** that have exceeded the minimum threshold for each evaluation criterion. The final list of projects with proposed funding shall be approved by Rectoral Decree.

Projects will be financed in order of score until the available budget is exhausted.

Art. 10 - 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.

Following the Team Leader's acceptance of the funding, the relevant Departments will convene the members of the research group in order to proceed with the stipulation of the respective contracts. The applicants will be contracted by means of research grant contracts for a duration of 24 months.

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.



The team leader is also required to submit a final **scientific report** and a **final financial statement** within 30 days after the end of the project.

Both interim and final scientific reports and financial statements must be sent to the Research Projects Unit by the Team Leader's Department (see "Instructions for the correct reporting of funding" attached to this Call for Proposals).

The **Research Committee shall** carry out an assessment to verify the achievement of the objectives set out in the project proposal, on the basis of the interim and final scientific reports. The Research Committee will also assess any requests for changes in the project programming and the related resource planning.

The **Research Projects Unit** carries out an assessment to verify whether the expenses incurred comply with the reference rules of the Call for Proposals. All expenses shall be recognized as eligible only if they are actually incurred within the deadline of the project. In the case of contract staff specifically recruited for the project, only costs incurred up to the expiry date of the project shall be considered eligible. The costs of person-months of structured staff cannot be reported.

Article 11 - 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 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 scientific report accompanied by the final statement of expenditure incurred.

Article 12 - Processing of personal data

In accordance with the principles of lawfulness, fairness, transparency, adequacy, relevance and necessity as set out in Art.5, paragraph 1 of the GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data) the University of Florence, in its capacity as Data Controller, will process the personal data provided by candidates at the time of registration for the selection procedure, solely to allow the same to be carried out in compliance with the relevant legislation in force.



The Data Protection Officer (DPO) is Dr Massimo Benedetti, Director of the General and Legal Affairs Area, Florence, Via G. La Pira n.4, tel. 0552757667 e-mail: privacy@adm.unifi.it.

https://www.unifi.it/upload/sub/protezionedati/Informativa_SELEZIONI.pdf

Art. 13 - Competent organisational unit and person in charge of the procedure

For all the purposes of this call for proposals, the **competent organisational unit is UNIFI Grant Office - Research Services and Technology Transfer Area**, located in Viale Morgagni 40 - 50139 Florence.

The **person in charge of the procedure** is Dr Denise Cuccia, email denise.cuccia@unifi.it, tel. 0552751912.

The IT procedure is developed by the Florence University IT System.

Article 14 - Publication

The issuing decree is published on the Official Bulletin Board of the University of Florence at:

<https://www.unifi.it/albo-ufficiale.html>

The call is available on the University website at <https://www.unifi.it/p12171.html>

The Rector

Prof. Alessandra Petrucci