



INROAD 3rd Call for Proposals

Selection of

ERC Candidates, H2020 Coordinator Candidates and MSCA Candidates

GIVEN the fact the University of Pavia has been granted € 200,000 in financing under D.R. N. 7199 of 21/07/2016 to implement the project entitled "MEGAsTaR: Matematica d'Eccellenza in biologia ed ingegneria come acceleratore di una nuova strateGia per l'Attrattività dell'ateneo pavese" as a result of a public competition sponsored by the Lombardy Region – Fondazione Cariplo: "Avviso congiunto per l'incremento dell'attrattività del sistema ricerca lombardo e della competitività dei ricercatori candidati su strumenti ERC - edizione 2016" for **sub-programme A** "Attrattività' eccellenze", € 58,000 of which is reserved for the present initiative;

CONSIDERING the institutional initiative "Institutional Horizon 2020 Committee @ UNIPV" (INROAD) by the University of Pavia, presented to the Board of Directors on 10/01/2017, which aims at a pilot activity by the university to increase the attractiveness of and promote projects of excellence by the University of Pavia;

SEEING THAT the University of Pavia has earmarked € 100,000 in the 2019 budget to finance additional activities to those called for in the MEGAsTaR project to provide more support to the presentation of research projects through the INROAD initiative;

CONSIDERING the Code of Ethics of the University of Pavia in force since 21/06/2011;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that INROAD comprises three courses of action: Line 1 - **Fostering ERC talents @UNIPV**, in order to produce more researchers of excellence in advance of the presentation of their ERC projects; Line 2 - **Boosting Competitiveness of H2020 Coordinators**, in order to finance activities to optimize project proposals in partnership to be sent to Horizon 2020, in which coordination comes under a researcher of the University of Pavia; Line 3 - **Attracting & Strengthening international Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships Candidates @UNIPV** to support researchers in the preparation of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships mobility grant of Horizon 2020.

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN SET FORTH

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of the present guidelines:

- UNIPV stands for the University of Pavia;
- H2020 stands for the existing Horizon 2020 framework programme;

- INROAd stands for the “Institutional Horizon 2020 Committee @ UNIPV”, an initiative of the University of Pavia;
- IHC stands for the Institutional Horizon 2020 Committee, a permanent committee of the University of Pavia whose mission will be to oversee activities planned for the INROAd initiative;
- The Executive Board (Nucleo Direttivo) is the body set up to manage and monitor the initiative in question; it is composed of the Vice-Deputy for Research and two representatives from each sector of the ERC: PE, LS, SH;
- The Scientific Board (Nucleo Scientifico) is the body set up to evaluate and select the candidates for Lines 1 and 2; it is composed of the ERC Grant Holders at the University of Pavia;
- The RRI Board (Nucleo RRI – Head of Research and Innovation) is the body set up for monitoring and support in the ethics area regarding problems involving resources which are particularly unique to such areas;
- The Management Board (Nucleo Gestionale) is the body set up to manage the initiative in question; it is composed of personnel from the Research and Third Mission Service (Servizio Ricerca e Terza Missione);
- ERC stands for the European Research Council;
- MSCA stands for the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions of Horizon 2020;
- Host Institution is the university or public research body, selected by the winner of the ERC grants, where the research activities of the project are carried out, as established in the Grant Agreement;
- the applicant is the researcher, whatever his legal status is, Italian or foreign, that presents an ERC project as the Principal Investigator – hereafter the ERC Candidate – or a researcher that presents a collaborative project under the Horizon 2020 Program or similar programs - hereafter the Coordinator Candidate - or a mobility project to the University of Pavia through the "Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships" calls of Horizon 2020 - hereafter MSCA Candidate.

Article 2

Aim of the Selection

The present guidelines seek to regulate the selection and implementation procedures in **Line 1- Fostering ERC talents @UNIPV, Line 2 - Boosting Competitiveness of H2020 Coordinators and Line 3 – Attracting & Strengthening International Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships Candidates @UNIPV** of the INROAd institutional project of the University of Pavia.

Line 1 of INROAd - **Fostering ERC talents @UNIPV** aims at strengthening the capacity of highly-qualified researchers in advance of the presentation of their ERC projects through tutoring and mentoring directly supervised by the university’s ERC grantees, who are members of the IHC.

The researchers selected under Line 1 can benefit from personalized tutoring and mentoring activities¹, whose cost will be fully borne by the University of Pavia. These activities aim at strengthening the researchers' project proposals before they are sent to the ERC in order to increase the chances the grant will be awarded.

Line 2 of INROAd - **Boosting Competitiveness of H2020 Coordinators** calls for the financing of activities to optimize the project proposals in partnership, where coordination is headed by a researcher of the University of Pavia. The projects will be submitted to a call for proposals of the H2020 European Programme. The funded activities will aim specifically at strengthening the project proposals in advance of the submission to the H2020 call in order to increase the chances the grant will be awarded.

Line 3 - Attracting & Strengthening International Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships Candidates @UNIPV of INROAd intends to increase the attractiveness of the University of Pavia to researchers who decide to present a mobility project "MSCA Individual Fellowships" and indicate the University of Pavia as the institution hosting their future research (Beneficiary). In particular, the line will fund the networking and planning activities preliminary to the presentation of the project that will be carried out together with the scientific supervisor referent for the University.

Article 3

Eligible Researchers

The ERC Candidates eligible for participation in Line 1 are Principal Investigators of projects that will be presented to the next European Research Council calls (Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant or Advanced Grant) of Horizon 2020 who have chosen the University of Pavia as the Host Institution.

Ineligible for participation in Line 1 are researchers who present a future ERC project as a Co-PI or additional Partner.

The ERC Candidates allowed to present an application for Line 1 must satisfy the eligibility criteria for participating in the ERC Starting grant, Consolidator grant or Advanced grant calls. Furthermore:

- both permanent and non-permanent researchers affiliated to the UNIPV who are willing to spend an "outgoing" period (maximum 2 months), hosted by a PI of another Host Institution, must have a support letter from the hosting PI;
- researchers not affiliated to the UNIPV ("incoming") applying to the calls of Line 1 must have a support letter from the Head of the Department of the University of Pavia that will host them to develop their ERC project and from a professor/researcher that will have the role of local contact and will hold the funds.

Those allowed to present an application for Line 2 are both non-permanent and permanent researchers who intend to present a collaborative project as a project coordinator under Horizon 2020.

¹ Tutoring e mentoring consist in the activities described in the MEGAsTaR project: "The selected researchers will be invited to training workshops on how to write an ERC project and will interact with other ERC grantees affiliated with Host Institutions abroad. The grantees will be contacted by the IHC in quality of external advisors. Moreover, the IHC will organize a mock interview for the candidates who have passed step 1 of the ERC selection process to support the preparation of their interview in Brussels".

Line 2 does not call for the participation of researchers of the University of Pavia who take part in a project to be submitted to a future Horizon 2020 call who are not project coordinators.

The MSCA Candidates admitted to apply for Line 3 are researchers who respect the eligibility criteria and the "mobility rules" of the "Individual Fellowships" calls of the Horizon 2020 MSCA actions and which identify the University of Pavia as the beneficiary of the grant.

In order to be admitted to the selection, the MSCA Candidates shall necessarily have to submit a support letter from a permanent Researcher/Professor of our University available to host the candidate at his (her) own institution, which will act as Scientific Supervisor of the Individual Fellowship project and fund holder.

Article 4

Areas of Interest of the Projects

Applications submitted for Line 1 can cover all fields of research belonging to the scientific domains Social Sciences and Humanities (SH), Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE), Life Sciences (LS) funded by ERC (<https://erc.europa.eu/>).

Applications submitted for Line 2 can regard projects to be presented at all future Horizon 2020 calls, except the Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships.

Article 5

Amount of the Contribution and Eligible costs

LINE 1

INROAd will guarantee to each researcher selected by means of this procedure the funding of an "outgoing" mobility period at another institution hosting an ERC project (in the presence of a support letter from the ERC Grant Holder) or an "Incoming" mobility period at the UNIPV for an amount up to € 2,500/month (for a maximum of two months) paid by the UNIPV, or alternatively:

1. Reimbursement to external advisors for a "peer review": up to € 1,000;
2. Organization of a meeting/workshop with an advisor at the UNIPV (maximum duration: 2 days, work coordinated by the Research and Third Mission Service): up to € 3,000;
3. General expenses for the proposal presentation: up to € 1,000;

LINE 2

Each coordinator candidate selected for Line 2 will be guaranteed financing in the form of:

1. Reimbursement to external advisors for a "peer review": up to € 1,000;
2. Organization of a meeting/workshop with an advisor at the UNIPV (maximum duration: 2 days, work coordinated by the Research and Third Mission Service): up to € 3,000;
3. General expenses for the proposal presentation: up to € 1,000;

LINE 3

Each candidate MSCA, selected for line 3, will receive funding in the form of:

1. Visit to UNIPV and Organization of meetings / workshops with advisor in UNIPV (maximum duration 2 days, work coordinated by the Research Service and Third Mission): up to € 1,500;
2. General expenses related to the submission of the proposal: up to € 1,000.

General criteria for the management of the contribution

The aforementioned expense items can be re-adjusted when deemed appropriate and motivated by the Executive Board and the Management Board for all the lines.

For all the lines 1,2 and 3, the funds reserved for each project will be recorded by the Departments hosting the beneficiaries selected by this procedure.

The expenses incurred in the execution of the projects will be monitored by the Research and Third Mission Service by means of a reporting template that will be made available to the Administrative Staff of the Departments in the project start-up phase.

Article 6

Presentation, Appraisal and Evaluation of the applications

Applications are to be presented by filling in the attached forms in English and sending them to the following e-mail address: inroad@unipv.it by the deadlines in force at the time of the presentation, which will be published on the following university site: <http://inroad.unipv.eu> and communicated via e-mail by the Research and Third Mission Service.

The Research and Third Mission Service will assess the eligibility of the proposals with respect to the European regulations of reference.

The selection will be based on an evaluation by the Scientific Board of the IHC based on the basis of the evaluation criteria in Attachment n° 3.

For Line 1 and 3 the Scientific Board may arrange for interviews to determine the scientific experience of the candidate and his or her project idea that will be developed thanks to the contribution of INROAD.

For Line 2, the proposals will be evaluated based on the effective date of their arrival. Financing will be given to those applications that achieve a minimum of 70 points, until all the available resources for the remaining length of the H2020 Programme have been utilized.

The IHC Management Board will make the final approval of the definitive rankings.

Article 7

Obligations for the Selected Candidates

With reference to Line 1, in the event beneficiaries of the financing under the present notice receive an ERC financing, it shall be requested that at least 50% of the grant from the European Research Council be spent undertaking research at the University of Pavia.

With reference to Line 2, in the event beneficiaries of the financing under the present notice receive a Horizon 2020 financing, it shall be requested that the coordination of the project be attributed to the University of Pavia.

With reference to line 3, if the MSCA candidate obtains funding in Horizon 2020 with the project supported by INROAD, it is requested that the University of Pavia be the beneficiary institution of the project initiative.

Article 8

Confidentiality

At the request of the candidates it is possible to prepare a specific *Non-Disclosure Agreement* that will be signed by all parties involved in both the selection phase of the proposals and the management phase for the approved proposals.

In any case all candidates will be granted access to the documents, pursuant to regulation 241/1990 and subsequent amendments.

Article 9

Renunciations and Forfeitures

For all the lines 1, 2 and 3, the beneficiaries selected can renounce the financing within 30 working days after being informed of their selection for the grant.

For all the lines 1, 2 and 3, in order to plan the activities they intend to carry out, the beneficiaries selected are required to contact the Research and Third Mission Service through the e-mail address: inroad@unipv.it within 30 working days after being told they have received the grant; otherwise the selection will be voided.

Article 10

Limitations and extension

The researchers selected for Line 1 must not submit other ERC project proposals involving other Host Institutions. The proposals for Line 1 should be referred to the last open call for each ERC category (Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced).

Each Coordinator Candidate can receive financing for no more than 1 project until the end of Horizon 2020. Applications for Line 2 must refer to calls that expire at least 4 months after presentation of the application.

Each MSCA Candidate can receive contributions for no more than 1 project by the end of Horizon 2020.

The contributions assigned to each project must be spent or committed within the following deadlines:

- For line 1: by the closure of the reference ERC Call; any extension will be granted only for the purpose of incurring expenses for the preparation of the interview in Brussels;
- For line 2 and 3: by the closure of the reference H2020 call; any extension motivated by specific scientific needs, must be evaluated by the Executive Board and, in any case, cannot exceed 3 months from the closure of the call in question.

Article 11

Communications and Information

All information and forms, as well as the publication of the ranking list, will be published on the site:

<http://inroad.unipv.eu>.

For the purposes of presenting applications, the Administration considers implicit the authorization by the candidates to publish information concerning the submitted proposal (Name and Surname, Title, Department of affiliation, score obtained, assigned funds).

For information and communications please send an email to: inroad@unipv.it.

Attachments:

Annex I - Application for participation in Line 1 and 3

Annex II - Application for participation in Line 2

Annex III - Selection criteria and evaluation schemes for Line 1, Line 2 and Line 3