



INROAd+ 2020

Call

CONSIDERING that the University of Pavia's "Institutional Horizon Europe Committee @ UNIPV" (INROAd+) has been renewed by the present administration as part of the Project: "Strengthening and attractiveness of the research system", with the approval of the Governing Board on 24 July 2020, and aimed at supporting the University's strategy to increase the attractiveness and promotion of its project excellence;

GIVEN that the University of Pavia has set aside, as part of its 2020 budget, €200.000 to support the presentation of research projects through the INROAd+ initiative;

CONSIDERING that the University of Pavia will nominate the members of the INROAd+ committee by 30 October 2020

GIVEN that the University of Pavia's Code of Ethics has been in force since 21/06/2011;

CONSIDERING that the INROAd+ initiative includes two action paths: **Action path 1-Fostering ERC talents @UNIPV** to provide support for excellent researchers in view of the presentation of their ERC projects; **Action path2 -Boosting Competitiveness of HORIZON EUROPE Coordinators** for financing the optimisation of project proposals to be presented in partnership in the context of the research and innovation framework programme Horizon Europe, the co-ordination of which will be led by a permanent researcher from the University.

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED:

Article 1: Definitions

Within these guidelines, it is intended:

- by UNIPV: the University of Pavia;
- by HORIZON EUROPE: the current research and innovation framework programme;
- by INROAd+(INstitutional hoRizOn 2020 At UniPV): the University of Pavia's initiative described in the "Strengthening and attractiveness of the research system" project;
- by INROAd+committee: the University of Pavia's permanent committee, appointed by Rectoral nomination, which will be tasked with the supervision of all the activities planned as part of the INROAd+ 2020 initiative as well as the evaluation and selection of candidates. It will be formed by all the "ERC Grant Holders" at the University of Pavia

- by RRI Group (Head of Research and Innovation): the body set up to include social actors in the research and innovation processes, the monitoring of proposals to ensure they conform to ethical principles and respect gender equality and the usability of research results in society;
- by Management Group: the work group that manages institutional initiatives, composed of two personnel from the *Servizio Ricerca e Terza Missione* (Research and Third Mission Unit);
- by ERC: the European Research Council;
- by Host Institution: the University or public research body chosen by the winner of the ERC grant as the research centre, as evidenced by the specific grant agreement;
- by candidate: the researcher,
 - a) of whatever legal status, Italian or non-Italian, who presents an ERC project as a Principal Investigator – hereafter **ERC Candidate**,
 - b) permanently employed by the University, who presents a collaborative project as part of the HORIZON EUROPE framework programme – hereafter Horizon Europe **Co-ordinator Candidate**

Article 2: Selection aims

The guidelines are designed to regulate the selection procedures and the implementation of **Action Path 1- Fostering ERC talents @UNIPV** and **Action Path2 - Boosting Competitiveness of HORIZON EUROPE Co-ordinators**

Action Path 1- Fostering ERC talents @UNIPV, as part of INROAd+, has the objective of supporting excellence in research in view of the presentation of ERC projects through tutoring and mentoring activities, overseen directly by the INROAd+ committee.

The selected researchers, as part of Action Path 1, will benefit from personalised tutoring and mentoring activities¹ with costs covered in full by the University of Pavia. These activities are aimed specifically at improving proposals prior to their submission to the ERC with the aim of increasing the probability of being awarded a grant.

Action Path 2 – Boosting Competitiveness of HORIZON EUROPE Co-ordinators, as part of INROAd+, foresees the financing of activities to optimise project proposals in partnership with other institutions, to be co-ordinated by a University researcher and that will be presented in the framework of a Horizon Europe call. These activities are aimed at improving the projects ahead of their submission to the Horizon Europe programme in order to increase the probability of being awarded a grant.

¹ Tutoring and mentoring consist in: “The selected researchers being called upon to attend training workshops on how to write ERC projects. They may interact with ERC award winners from abroad, as External Advisors, with whom the committee will have made contact. For those who manage to pass Step 1 of the ERC call at which they must present their project, and who have not applied for Strengthening action, the committee will also organise a mock interview to help researchers prepare for the presentation in Brussels”.

Article 3: Candidate researchers

ERC Candidates eligible for Path 1 are the Principal Investigators of projects to be presented to the European Research Council (Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant and Advanced Grant) as part of Horizon Europe, who have chosen the University of Pavia as a host institution and who are not eligible for Strengthening action (which is dedicated exclusively to non-permanent staff who have passed Step 1 of ERC projects). For Action Path 1, researchers who intend to present ERC projects in the future as a Co-PI or as additional partner may not participate.

ERC Candidates admitted to present an application for Path 1 (Attachment 1) must necessarily satisfy the eligibility criteria for participation in one of the calls: ERC Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant or Advanced Grant. Further:

- UNIPV researchers, both permanent and non-permanent, who wish to spend an 'outgoing' period (a maximum of two months) with a PI from another host institution, must present a supporting letter from the host PI;
- researchers not from the UNIPV ('incoming') who would like to apply for the following initiative must present a supporting letter and an acceptance letter from the Director of the department at the University of Pavia where they will be based to develop their ERC project as well as a member of the department's teaching staff as a local reference and fund holder.

Co-ordinator Candidates admitted to apply for Action Path 2 (Attachment 2) are those permanent researchers from the University of Pavia who present a project within the Horizon Europe framework programme in partnership with other institutions, identifying the University of Pavia as the co-ordinating body.

For Action Path 2, the participation of scientific supervisors from the University of Pavia who act as partners in the presentation of future Horizon Europe calls is not foreseen.

Article 4: Remit of research projects

Action Path 1 applications may include all research fields from the following scientific-disciplinary macro-sectors: Social Sciences and Humanities (SH), Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE) and Life Sciences (LS) that are the subject of ERC grants (<https://erc.europa.eu/>).

Action path 2 applications exclusively concern partnership projects to be presented at all future Horizon Europe calls, excluding those issued by the ERC.

Article 5: Contribution amount and admissible expenses

Each selected researcher will be guaranteed University funding of €10.000, which can be used for the following expenses:

1. Payments to External Advisors for peer reviews: up to €1.000;

2. Consumables, Open Access publications, organisation of meetings/workshops with an Advisor at the UNIPV, mission expenses (maximum of 2 days, work to be co-ordinated by the Management Group): up to €8000;
3. Other costs, duly justified, up to €1.000;

Article 6: General criteria for the management of the funding

It should be noted that admissible costs are re-adjustable and may amount to a maximum of 20% of the total funding.

This limit does not apply if the re-adjustment is needed for the payment of Open Access publications for tasks related to the scientific project presented and which have as the main author (first or last named author or corresponding author) the beneficiary of the INROAd+ funding.

In any case, any re-adjustment must be authorised by the Management Group subject to a positive and motivated opinion from the INROAd+ committee.

For all funding lines, contributions destined to each project will be accounted for by the department that hosts the benefiting researcher.

The funding will be paid in two steps: an 80% advance once the request is approved and the remaining 20% at the start of the project. The presentation of the grant application must be made at the first available call or, providing the INROAd+ committee approves, by the time of the following call.

There will be two scientific and economic reports: one 6 months after the payment of the advance; the second two months after the presentation of the grant. Both payments will be monitored by the Management Group with the technical and scientific contribution of the INROAd+ committee, if necessary. The report forms will be made available by the Co-ordinating Administrative Office as the Management Group starts the projects.

Article 7: Presentation, appraisal and evaluation of applications

Applications should be presented by completing the attached forms and sending them to the following e-mail address: inroad@unipv.it, by **30 October 2020**. Deadline details and any additional information will be published on the official website at <http://inroad.unipv.eu/> and communicated by the Management Group, via e-mail.

The Management Group will assess the eligibility of the proposals, respecting the relevant EU regulations.

Selections will be based on evaluations made by the INROAd+ committee, adhering to the evaluation criteria outlined in Attachment 3.

For Action Path 1, the INROAd+ committee will be able to invite candidates for an interview based on their scientific background and the project idea to be developed thanks to the funding.

For Action Path 2, a case-by-case procedure will apply. Applications that reach a minimum of 80 points (according to the criteria established in Attachment 3) will be financed. Funding will be provided, until resources are exhausted, for the rest of the Horizon Europe programme.

The INROAd+ committee will make final decisions regarding the ranking list.

Article 8: Obligations of benefiting candidates

Concerning Action Path 1, in cases in which benefiting candidates obtain ERC funding, it is required (presenting a signed letter of intention) that at least 50% of the grant will be used for research conducted at the University of Pavia.

Concerning Action Path 2, in cases in which benefiting candidates obtain Horizon Europe funding, it is required that the University of Pavia is the project co-ordinator.

Article 9: Confidentiality

At candidates' request, it is possible to prepare a specific *Non-Disclosure Agreement* to be signed by all the parties involved both in the proposal selection phase and in the management phase of those approved.

At candidates' request, it is possible to prepare a specific *Non-Disclosure Agreement* to be signed by all the parties involved both in the selection phase of the proposals and in the management phase of those approved. In any case, access to the documents will be guaranteed to all candidates, in adherence with regulation 241/1990 and subsequent amendments.

Article 10: Waivers and forfeiture

For all finance lines, the selected beneficiaries may forfeit their funding within 30 working days of being informed of the awarding of the grant.

For all finance lines, the selected beneficiaries should contact the Management Group via email at inroad@unipv.it in order to plan the activities that will be carried out in the initiative within 30 working days of being informed of the awarding of the grant. failing which the grant award will be withdrawn.

Article 11: Limitations and extensions

Selected ERC candidates under Action Path 1 should ensure (by presented a signed letter of intention) that they do not present ERC project proposals to other host institutions. **Applications presented for Action Path 1 must be made at the first available ERC call for the reference category (Starting, Consolidator or Advanced) or, providing the committee approves, by the time of the following call.**

Each Co-ordinator Candidate should receive contributions for not more than 1 Horizon Europe project. Action Path 2 applications regard calls with a deadline at least 3 months after candidate applications have been sent.

Allocated funding for each project must be spent or used by the following deadlines:

- For Action Path 1: by the closing date of the ERC call in question; any eventual extensions will only be permitted for expenses used to prepare the interview in Brussels;
- For Action Path 2: by the closing date of the HORIZON EUROPE call in question; any eventual extensions, for specific scientific reasons, must be evaluated by the INROAd+ committee and, in any case, may not exceed 6 months from the closure of the call in question.

Article 12

Correspondence and information

All information and forms, as well as the ranking lists, will be published on the following website:

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

With the presentation of the candidacies, the Administration deems it implicit on the part of the candidates to authorise the publication of information relating to the submitted proposal (name and surname, proposal title, department of affiliation, score obtained, funding awarded).

For information and correspondence, the following email address should be used: inroad@unipv.it.

The Vice-Rector for Research

Prof. Mauro Freccero

(document digitally signed)

Attachments:

ATTACHMENT1 –Action Path 1 applications

ATTACHMENT2 - Action Path 2 applications

ATTACHMENT3 –Selection criteria and evaluation form