

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF ECONOMIC OPERATORS COMPETENT IN THE FIELD OF DIGITAL INNOVATION, IMPACT MONITORING, BLUE ECONOMY AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE POSSIBLE AWARDING OF A SERVICE OF SPECIALISED SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES 1.2, 2.6, 3.2 AND 3.3 OF THE STRATEGIC PROJECT “UNLEASH THE POTENTIAL FOR JOINT TRANSITION IN THE BLUE ECONOMY – LEAP TO BLUE” (REF. ITHR0500560) APPROVED UNDER THE STRATEGIC CALL OF THE INTERREG ITALY–CROATIA 2021–2027 PROGRAMME

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PREABLE

Unioncamere del Veneto (hereinafter “UCV”) is a partner of the strategic project “Unleash the potential for joint transition in the blue economy – **LEAP TO BLUE**” (ref. ITHR0500560) funded under the Interreg Italy–Croatia 2021–2027 Programme (hereinafter the “Project”).

Aligned with Programme Specific Objective 1.2 – “Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship”, the **project addresses** common territorial challenges shared by Italy and Croatia in the **blue economy, promoting innovation, digital and green transformation, skills development, cross-border cooperation, and access to international markets.**

By enhancing the capacities of 162 SMEs in overlapping S3 sectors of the blue economy, the project aims to actively promote cross-border cooperation, increase joint innovation capacities, facilitate digital transformation, and **boost internationalisation potential** – while driving sustainable growth, creating jobs, and supporting blue economy green transition in the Italy–Croatia region.

The Project adopts a “3D’ support model based on three integrated pillars:

- Capacity Building
- Matchmaking & Networking
- Voucher Scheme

The implementation of specific Project activities, particularly those related to monitoring tools, capitalisation, assessment, and sustainability, necessitates specialised expertise in digital innovation, impact monitoring, blue economy, and cross-border cooperation, which is currently unavailable among UCV's internal personnel.

This Expression of Interest is issued by UCV to **solicit applications from economic operators** (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Potential Contractors”) **possessing expertise in digital innovation, impact monitoring, blue economy, and cross-border cooperation.** The Potential Contractors must be capable of delivering **specialised support** for the implementation of specific Project activities, as further detailed in Article 1, and will may be invited to submit a financial offer.

This procedure is characterized by its informal nature and may lead to a subsequent request for quotations for the purpose of awarding the service (hereinafter the “Service”).

This Expression of interest does not constitute the launch of a public procurement procedure, and no merit rankings or scoring systems are envisaged, as this is solely a preliminary market survey aimed at identifying a suitable economic operator to whom the Service may be awarded, without creating any legal rights or contractual obligations on the part of UCV.

UCV furthermore reserves the right to interrupt or suspend the process and not to proceed with the subsequent stages of awarding the Service, without applicants being entitled to make any claim.

The selection of applicants to be invited to submit a financial offer will be made at UCV's sole

discretion. UCV may award the Service to the economic operator that, in its unquestionable judgement, is deemed most suitable and meets the general and special requirements set out in this Notice.

UCV also reserves the right to request a quotation even where only a single application has been received, provided that the applicant is deemed suitable and appropriate in relation to the scope of the Service and within the budgetary limits foreseen.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE

The Service consists of providing specialized technical assistance to Unioncamere del Veneto for the operational implementation, impact monitoring, and strategic capitalization of results within the project LEAP TO BLUE (Project ID: ITHR0500560). **The assignment is divided into the following main activities, strictly linked to the project's official deliverables:**

A.T. 1.2 – Development of Monitoring and Impact Tool - The provider will support Unioncamere del Veneto in activating the measures defined in the **Capitalization Plan (D.1.2.3)**. Key tasks include:

- Operational assistance in executing result-transfer strategies toward new target groups and territories;
- Support in utilizing monitoring tools to collect qualitative data aimed at demonstrating the impact of cross-border cooperation on SME competitiveness.

A.T. 2.6 – Monitoring of voucher scheme services implementation - In coordination with the activities of Work Package 2, the provider will support the monitoring process leading to the **Voucher scheme implementation reports (D.2.6.1)**. Key tasks include:

- Implementation of monitoring procedures for services delivered to SMEs under the **"Internationalization"** pillar;
- Quality assessment of the services provided by external experts following the first call (A.T. 2.6.1), identifying strategic adjustments for the second call;
- Analysis of the overall impact generated by the vouchers upon completion of the second round (A.T. 2.6.2.), verifying the real added value of cross-border partnerships.

A.T. 3.2 – In-depth qualitative assessment of 3D mode - The provider will support the production of the **In-depth qualitative assessment report (D.3.2.1)**. Key tasks include:

- Conducting interactive evaluation sessions with a representative sample (at least 15%) of the SMEs receiving vouchers,
- Collection and analysis of structured feedback regarding the effectiveness of the three model components: capacity Building, Matchmaking/Networking, and the Voucher Scheme;
- Development of qualitative inputs to validate the transferability and scalability of the support model;

A.T. 3.3 – Development of Sustainability Model and Action Plan - The provider will ensure the necessary support to operationalize the **Action Plan for Long-Term Capitalisation of Results (D.3.3.2)** and the formalization of the **Memorandum of Understanding (D.3.3.3)**. Key tasks include:

- Identification and activation of operational synergies with other projects and macro-regional

- initiatives (e.g., EUSAIR) to maximize result visibility;
- Organization of joint networking and dissemination activities to foster the project's integration into local, national, European and cross-border innovation ecosystems;
 - Support for the development of follow-up business partnerships and assistance in formalizing long-term commitments through the **Memorandum of Understanding (D.3.3.3)**;
 - Elaboration of proposals for the technical upgrade and evolution of the support model (3D Model upgrade), ensuring the continuity of services beyond the Interreg funding period.

2. DURATION

The Service for which this Notice is preparatory shall cover the entire cycle of activities described in Article 1 and shall have a duration **until 30/06/2028**.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Interested parties meeting the general and special requirements described below may apply.

A) General requirements – Natural persons:

- (i) Citizenship of an EU Member State;
- (ii) enjoyment of civil and political rights;
- (iii) not having been convicted by a final judgment, irrevocable penal order, or plea-bargain sentence under Article 444 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for:
 - a) offences of participation in a criminal organisation, financial crimes, corruption, fraud, money laundering, or offences affecting professional integrity;
 - b) offences of terrorism or subversion of the constitutional order, or offences connected to terrorist activities;
 - c) any other offence entailing, as an ancillary penalty, the incapacity to contract with public bodies;
- (iv) not being subject to criminal proceedings for any of the offences referred to in point 3 above, and not being subject to any preventive measures;
- (v) absence of any conflict of interest, including potential conflicts of interest;
- (vi) no family ties, kinship or cohabitation arrangements with UCV managers or employees;
- (vii) not having entered into employment contracts or awarded assignments to former public officials in breach of Article 53, paragraph 16-ter, of Legislative Decree No. 165/2001 (see ANAC opinions AG/8/2015, AG/2/2015 and Resolution No. 1074 of 21 November 2018);
- (viii) not having previously received a negative evaluation from UCV for any assignment;
- (ix) not being in any situation or condition that, under applicable law, entails incapacity or a prohibition to contract with public bodies;
- (x) compliance with the rules governing the right to work of persons with disabilities pursuant to Article 17 of Law No. 68 of 12 March 1999, where applicable;
- (xi) acceptance of UCV's code of ethics/conduct.

A bis) General requirements – Legal entities:

- (i) registered office in Italy or an EU Member State, with a corporate purpose compatible with the Assignment;
- (ii) regular registration with the Chamber of Commerce (CCIAA) or equivalent official register in the country of establishment, and absence of insolvency, liquidation, judicial administration, or equivalent proceedings;
- (iii) the legal representative must fulfil requirements (iii), (iv), (vii), (viii), (ix) and (x) listed under Section A above for natural persons;
- (iv) absence of any conflict of interest, including potential conflicts of interest, and absence of family ties, kinship or cohabitation arrangements between UCV managers or employees and the legal representative or key personnel of the company;
- (v) not be a company in difficulty (according to the point 14 of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014);
- (vi) not have been convicted of fraud, corruption or any other criminal offence affecting the financial interests of the European Union;
- (vii) compliance with applicable rules on the employment of persons with disabilities pursuant to Law No. 68 of 12 March 1999, where applicable;

B) Special technical requirements:

Applicants must meet the following objective thresholds to be considered eligible:

- (i) **Blue Economy operational experience:** documented experience in providing operational support or technical assistance to SMEs within the Blue Economy sectors (e.g., sustainable maritime transport, aquaculture, fisheries, or green shipbuilding). This requirement is considered fulfilled if the applicant meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. Successful execution of at least two (2) service contracts in the Blue Economy sectors within the last three years;
 - b. Participation in the implementation of at least two (2) projects specifically aimed at supporting the development of the Blue Economy;
 - c. The applicant's official institutional mission or statutory corporate purpose is primarily dedicated to the support and development of the Blue Economy;
- (ii) **Interreg implementation expertise:** demonstrated experience in the operational implementation of at least one (1) project funded by European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programs (e.g., Interreg Italy-Croatia, Adrion, Euro-MED). The experience must specifically involve technical-administrative management and activity monitoring.

The fulfilment of the General and Special technical requirements shall be attested by means of a self-declaration using the form provided as Annex "I".

4. CV EVALUATION AND PREFERENTIAL CRITERIA

The identification of candidates to be invited to submit a financial offer will be carried out by UCV through a qualitative comparative assessment of the CVs and supporting documents submitted by the Potential Contractors.

All experience must be clearly documented in the CV and/or supporting materials, indicating the role of the applicant, duration of the activity, and its relevance to the subject of this call. The following preferential criteria will be taken into account:

(i) Involvement in maritime innovation support structures:

Demonstrated experience in the establishment, management, or strategic coordination of Business Support Organizations (BSOs), clusters, or equivalent entities operating in the field of digital and green transition, with particular relevance to the Blue Economy. Preference will be given to applicants with an active and clearly defined role (e.g., coordination, management, or advisory functions).

(ii) Capitalization and sustainability expertise:

Proven experience in the development and implementation of capitalization strategies and sustainability models aimed at ensuring the long-term uptake and scalability of project results. Particular emphasis will be placed on the applicant's ability to operationalize support mechanisms, ensure continuity beyond project lifetime, and foster durable synergies among regional and national stakeholders.

(iii) Cross-border institutional networking:

Demonstrated experience in facilitating structured cross-border or transnational cooperation, including the development and management of formal agreements (e.g., Memoranda of Understanding). Preference will be given to applicants with active participation, structured collaboration, or formal membership in established European innovation networks or thematic EU platforms, particularly those addressing the Blue Economy, marine environment, or water-related challenges.

As already stated in the preamble, it is reiterated that:

- this Notice does not constitute the launch of a public procurement procedure, and no merit rankings or scoring systems are envisaged, as this is solely a preliminary market survey aimed at identifying a suitable economic operator to whom the Service may be awarded, without creating any legal rights or contractual obligations on the part of UCV;
- UCV reserves the right to interrupt or suspend the process and not to proceed with the subsequent stages of awarding the Service, without applicants being entitled to make any claim;
- the selection of applicants to be invited to submit a financial offer will be made at UCV's sole discretion, and UCV may award the Service to the economic operator deemed most suitable in its unquestionable judgement and meeting the requirements of this Notice;
- UCV reserves the right to request a quotation even where only a single application has been received, provided that the applicant is deemed suitable in relation to the scope of the Service.

5. APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

To express their interest, **all applicants** (whether individual professionals or companies) **must send to UCV the following documentation duly signed with a digital signature or handwritten signature** (attaching the ID):

- **Declaration of Honour** attesting the fulfilment of the General and Special technical requirements referred to in Article 3, using the form provided as **Annex "I"** (mandatory).
- **CV, company profile or descriptive document** outlining the relevant experiences and competences relevant to the preferential criteria referred to in Article 4 (mandatory);
- **Any additional document** proving the possession of the experiences and competences relevant to the preferential criteria referred to in Article 4 (not mandatory, but UCV reserves to request it later).

Interested parties must send the above documentation by certified e-mail (PEC) to

unioncamereveneto@pec.it no later than **08/06/2026 at 18:00 (CET)**, indicating in the subject line of the PEC: "**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE POSSIBLE AWARDING OF A SERVICE OF SPECIALISED SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES 1.2, 2.6, 3.2 AND 3.3 – LEAP TO BLUE PROJECT**"

Applications received after this deadline will not be taken into consideration.

Following the evaluation of the expressions of interest received, should UCV decide to proceed with the assignment, the **award procedure of the Service will be finalized and perfected through the MEPA** (Mercato Elettronico della Pubblica Amministrazione) **platform**. In this case, the selected operator will be invited to submit a formal quote on the platform in compliance with applicable public procurement regulations. UCV reserves the right not to proceed with the award of Service if the expressions of interest received do not meet the quality and professional standards required for the successful implementation of the project.

7. PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

Personal data and all information collected from applicants in connection with this procedure will be used solely and exclusively for the purposes of this procedure, in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and Legislative Decree No. 196/2003, as amended.

To this end, UCV undertakes to maintain confidentiality and to ensure the absolute security of such data, including when processed by automated and manual means, in accordance with the privacy notice set out in Annex "II".

8. PROCEDURE OFFICER AND CONTACTS

The Procedure Officer is Head of the Innovation and Funding Operations Area of UCV, Roberta Lazzari. For **information and clarification regarding this Notice**, applicants may contact:

Giada Bagattin (e-mail: giada.bagattin@ven.camcom.it – tel. + 39 041 0999311-411).

9. PUBLICATION

This Notice together with its annexes in editable format is published for at least 15 (fifteen) consecutive calendar days on the institutional website of Unioncamere del Veneto, where it will be freely, directly and fully accessible at: <https://www.unioncamereveneto.it/altre-comunicazioni/>.

Venice, 21/05/2026

HEAD OF THE INNOVATION AND FUNDING
OPERATIONS AREA
dott.ssa Roberta Lazzari

ANNEX I – DECLARATION OF HONOUR

ANNEX II – PRIVACY NOTICE ON PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING